

Police storm hijacked Saudi plane

NAIROBI (AP) — A man with a toy gun hijacked a Saudi Arabian jetliner with 139 passengers to Nairobi on Tuesday. The passengers were released, apparently unharmed, and Police then stormed the plane, injuring the hijacker and freeing the cockpit crew. Two women described as accomplices of the hijacker also were arrested, police Commissioner Shadrak Kiruki said. No other injuries were reported, he said. The hijacker, about 25, commanded the plane after it took off from Jeddah late Monday. The plane, which belonged to Saudi was headed for Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. The hijacker was armed with a toy pistol, Mr. Kiruki said, "but there was no way of telling that." The plane landed in Nairobi and all passengers were allowed to leave. About 16 hours after the hijacking began, security forces stormed the plane and arrested the three, Mr. Kiruki said. Their names were not immediately available, but Mr. Kiruki said all three were from Ethiopia. The hijacker was taken to a military hospital. Mr. Kiruki said the three originally wanted to go to Rome, then changed their minds and demanded fuel to London.

Volume 18 Number 5558

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1994, RAMADAN 27, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

EU imposes arms embargo on Sudan

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) on Tuesday imposed an arms embargo on Sudan in protest at bombings by the Sudanese air force and other human rights violations. EU foreign ministers decided without debate to impose the ban on shipments of arms, munitions and military equipment. EU officials said the measure was symbolic as EU countries had no arms trade with Sudan, whose 11-year-old civil war pits southern rebels against the northern government in Khartoum. The EU decision was announced without comment, but followed a statement two weeks ago condemning air force bombings which it said were harming the civilian population and causing a mass exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries.

Libyan claims spying for U.S. against Qadhafi

CAIRO (AP) — An army officer claimed on official Libyan television that he spied for the United States, collecting information on a controversial chemical plant and Libyan weapons programmes. The officer, who identified himself in the Monday night telecast as Colonel Miftah Mohammad Garoun Al Wifali, said in addition to working with the Americans, he had links with exiled Libyan dissidents. He said he and two colleagues had been "asked to collect information about the Libya plant, the extent of Libya's interest in nuclear research, its missile development programme, Col. Muammar Qadhafi's movements, the mood among the country's armed forces and the general situation inside Libya."

Militants kill two policemen in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected extremists shot and killed a policeman in southern Egypt on Tuesday, the second in as many days. Security officials said the policeman was ambushed in the Leila Khatoun neighbourhood of Assuit, a hotbed of extremism 320 kilometres south of Cairo. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. On Monday night, suspected extremists shot dead a policeman in the village of Darmka just outside Assiut, said the officials. The assailant escaped.

Armenia inaugurates Lebanon air link

BEIRUT (AP) — Armenia inaugurated Tuesday its first direct air flight to Lebanon, starting a weekly trip from Yerevan to Beirut. An official Armenian delegation arrived aboard a TU-154 Armenian Airlines jet with 120 passengers at Beirut airport at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT). Armenian Airlines Beirut manager, Pedro Ansarian, noted that many of the 120,000 Armenians living here have travelled between the two countries via Europe since Armenia gained independence in 1989.

Mercouri's body flown home for funeral

ATHENS (R) — The body of actress and Culture Minister Melina Mercouri returned home to a grief-stricken Greece on Tuesday for burial with full military honours. Mercouri, star of the 1960 film "Never on Sunday," died on Sunday at a New York hospital from complications after lung cancer surgery. The Olympic Airways jumbo jet that brought her remains to Athens was escorted by four Greek air force Phantom fighters. Thousands of Greeks packed the airport and cabinet colleagues met the plane.

Israeli army concedes Hebron mosque massacre could have been prevented

Generals testify before inquiry commission

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army acknowledged on Tuesday failing to provide adequate security that could have prevented the massacre of at least 60 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque.

Major-General Danny Yatom, the army commander of the occupied West Bank, spoke at the start of a public inquiry into the slaughter by a Jewish settler of Muslims kneeling in prayer on Feb. 25.

Gen. Yatom said five security men were missing from their posts when settler Baruch Goldstein entered the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs with a sub-machinegun and fired about 110 bullets at 400 to 500 worshippers over 90 seconds before himself being killed by the crowd.

"Five (men) were missing. The significance is that in the hall closest to where the incident took place there is only an office in place of an officer and another five," Gen. Yatom told a five-member panel.

"In retrospect my impression is the security plan (at the

tomb) provided a very good answer if it was executed ... I think in reality this plan could have prevented Goldstein's action, the massacre," Gen. Yatom said.

"And at least if it did not prevent it, it would have made it very difficult for this murderer to carry out his plot."

Gen. Yatom, head of the army's central command defended the army's practice of allowing Jewish worshippers to bring automatic rifles into the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a site of frequent friction where Muslims and Jews pray side by side.

Grilled by an Israeli Arab judge, Abdol Rahman Zoabi, on that point, Gen. Yatom said the army was geared towards thwarting attacks by Arabs against Israelis, not vice versa. He said intelligence updates given to the army did not address Jewish extremists.

"Such an act by a madman is not something we expected would happen at the Tomb of the Patriarchs or any other place," Gen. Yatom told the five-member commission in proceedings broadcast live to

the country. But Major General Dov Stellman, the army officer in charge of the tomb area, told the panel that before the Feb. 25 massacre, police had received dozens of complaints against Jews causing trouble in the tomb building. Most complaints were ignored, Gen. Yatom said.

Gen. Yatom said he had not received intelligence warnings that Jewish extremists planned to attack Palestinians in order to derail peace talks.

Still, a determined gunman could easily wreak havoc, he added. "A crazy Jew, if he wants to kill Arabs, God forbid, has every day many opportunities to do so," he said.

In response to a question, Gen. Yatom confirmed that just hours before the massacre, soldiers stepped in to separate angry Muslims and Jews arguing over prayer rights and that the incident was not reported to army brass.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin later told Israel army

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin has no plans now to remove Hebron settlers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he was not planning at present to remove the 400 Jewish settlers in the heart of Hebron where a settler killed at least 60 Palestinian worshippers.

A parliamentary official quoted Mr. Rabin as having told the foreign affairs and defence committee the settlers' presence in the middle of some 110,000 Palestinians was "a time bomb."

Nearly half the ministers in the Israeli government favour removing the settlers from the city where settler Baruch Goldstein, from the neighbouring enclave of Kiryat Arba, carried out the massacre on Feb. 25.

But the official, who attended the closed-door committee meeting, quoted Mr. Rabin as having said: "At this point there is no formal proposal. I do not intend to raise this kind of proposal."

The official quoted Mr. Rabin as saying: "There is a harsh reality on the ground that is an unnecessary time

bomb. But I am not expressing an opinion for the moment as regards evacuation."

"I have appealed to ministers not to come forward with radical proposals that will force the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) to be more Catholic than the Pope," Mr. Rabin said.

The PLO has demanded the Hebron settlement be dismantled as one of its terms for resuming peace talks suspended over the mosque slaughter.

"We are in the midst of negotiations and if public officials and ministers present these kinds of proposals, what will the PLO say?" Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

4 settlers arrested

Israeli police said on Tuesday they had arrested four out of five leaders of anti-Arab groups removed in a government crackdown on Jewish militants since the Hebron massacre.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said they arrested Ben

Zion Gibstein and Noam Federman on Monday night. Two others were detained last week without trial for three months ending on May 25, police said.

Mr. Gibstein and Mr. Federman are followers of the late U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, mentor of mosque killer Goldstein.

The spokesman said Mr. Gibstein and Mr. Federman were hiding at the homes of acquaintances when they were captured during combined raids by the Jerusalem police and the national serious crimes division.

Five leaders of the Kach and Kahane Chai movements were ordered detained after the massacre. Mr. Bar-Chen said only Kach leader Baruch Marzel remained at large.

Kahane Chai split from the original Kach movement after the assassination of Kahane in New York in 1990. The two groups, which openly advocate violence against Palestinians, became the main target of the government crackdown.

Salamah, 22, an activist of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians on Tuesday after one allegedly aimed a gun at a soldier at a checkpoint in the occupied Gaza Strip, reports said.

It said the second man was a resident of Arab East Jerusalem but refused to give his name until his family had been notified.

Hamas's Izzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, which killed most of the 31 Israeli sailors in the past five months, has vowed to avenge the Hebron massacre.

In a separate incident in Gaza, Palestinians said an Israeli police patrol fired at an Arab car in the Nuseirat refugee camp, wounding one passenger. The circumstances were not immediately clear.

Hamas said Tuesday the targets for threatened suicide attacks will be the Israeli military and Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in revenge for last week's massacre.

A spokeswoman said three magazines and another 30 bullets were found inside the car.

The army identified the wounded man as Ibrahim

elements in the occupied lands, a senior Hamas official also demanded an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mohammad Nazzal, the Jordan representative of Hamas, said: "Settlers must get out of the occupied territories and (Israel) must withdraw."

Mr. Nazzal described the March 15 ultimatum, issued Monday by Izzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, as "a continuation of Palestinian resistance, especially after the massacre of Hermon."

Hamas, a fierce opponent of the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement, has seized the killings to press its campaign against wrecking any effort for a negotiated settlement with the Jewish state.

The group advocates the elimination of Israel and the creation of a puritan Islamic state in its place.

In an underground leaflet

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Israelis stole organs from Hebron victims'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of Jordanian physicians who offered services to victims of the Hebron massacre told a news conference in Amman that families of the deceased reported that Israel removed organs from the Hebron victims before burial. Tayseer Sabri, a surgeon who led the eight-member Jordanian medical team to the occupied territories last week, said: "I was told that before burial, Palestinian victims were taken to Israeli hospitals where their organs were removed." He said Hebron residents claim that Israeli troops buried several victims... without informing their families to avoid autopsy in Arab hospitals after body organs, such as kidneys and corneas, were removed." Ishaq Marqa, chairman of Jordan Medical Association, said that Israel rejected demands by some families of the victims for autopsy. The Jordanian medical delegation stressed the need to form an emergency medical team, including the various specializations. The doctor said West Bank hospitals lack important medical specializations, such as vascular, chest and brain surgeons, and specialists in diagnostic X-ray. The team said West Bank hospitals also lack drugs, surgery equipment.



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

King performs Umra pilgrimage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JEDDAH — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday performed the Umra pilgrimage to Mecca on his first visit in nearly four years to Saudi Arabia where he was also expected to meet with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, signalling a Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation.

The official Jordanian media reported that the King, accompanied by several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and a high-level delegation, performed Umra, but did not refer to the expected meeting of the two monarchs.

But Jordanian officials and diplomatic sources have said that King Fahd had responded positively to the idea of such a meeting.

The strain in ties resulted from differences in approach the two leaders adopted towards ending the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

King Fahd sought international help for a military solution to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait while King Hussein advocated a diplomatic solution and refused to join a U.S.-led military coalition, which, in February

1991, evicted Iraq from the emirate.

Performing Umra along with King Hussein were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Dr. Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher, the King's advisors Mohammad Rasoul Al Kilani, Yana Hikmat, and Izzeddin Al Khatib, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra ad Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, the Hashemite family's imam Ahmad Haykel, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Abdul

Hafez Mir'i as well as several other members of the royal family and senior government and army officials.

King Hussein was received upon his arrival by Prince Saud Ben Abdul Muhsen, governor of Jeddah, the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Jeddah and senior Saudi officials.

The King was seen off upon departure by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the King's advisors, senior government officials and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman.

U.N. council urged to vote soon on killings

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Arab and Islamic groups at the United Nations have decided to urge the Security Council to vote as soon as possible on a resolution condemning the massacre of Palestinians last month at a mosque in Hebron on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The council held three public sessions last week on the Feb. 25 killing of at least 60 worshippers by an American-born settler who was a member of an extremist anti-Arab group.

But negotiations, mainly between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have so far failed to produce agreement on all elements of a text.

The final text of the council resolution was uncertain since it has gone through numerous changes during negotiations and had not been formally submitted by Monday evening.

But in addition to strongly condemning the Hebron killings, it was expected to call on Israel to implement measures aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers.

It was also expected to call for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, and the status of Jerusalem.

The main differences have been over the scope of measures to ensure the security of Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the status of the PLO.

Delegations comprising members of the Arab group and of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) were to ask Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France to reconvene the council to take a vote. Diplomats said this could

happen late Tuesday or Wednesday.

At the U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Christine Shelly said: "The resolution certainly remains very much on the council agenda and the negotiations are continuing ... very actively. I'm not in a position today to get into details on the specific contents."

Nabil Shaath, a special PLO envoy, met last week with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and with the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

Over the weekend, Mr. Christopher spoke by telephone with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa and with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Ms. Shelly said.

Ms. Shelly emphasised there has been no change in the U.S. position on the question of the international monitors which Mr. Christopher spelled out in congressional testimony last week.

The United States, she said, considers it a matter that should be viewed in the context of the Israeli-PLO declaration of principles which contains a provision regarding "the temporary international or foreign presence as agreed

on" by the parties.

Asked to assess Israel's follow-up on pledges to curb militant settlers in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, Ms. Shelly replied: "We made it clear when the tragedy occurred that it was our expectation that Prime Minister Rabin would carry out the commitment that the government of Israel made to curb the activities of the militant settlers and to improve security for the Palestinians. We think certainly it's very important that prompt and effective action be taken."

At the same time, the deputy spokesman said it was not appropriate "to get into a kind of scorecard of specific measures" on the issue.

"Clearly the overall issue of providing adequate security for Palestinians and for Israel to work toward a peaceful resolution of their differences is extremely important, and we remain in very close consultation with the parties on the issue," she said.

In Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat conferred Monday with a Russian presidential envoy.

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli jets attack resistance positions

MARJAYOUN (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted suspected bases of resistance forces in South Lebanon Tuesday in apparent retaliation for guerrilla attacks that killed nine Israeli affiliates a day earlier.

Security sources said four fighter-bombers plunged from overcast skies to rocket the Mitla bluffs in Iqlim Al Tufah in two sorties at 2:25 p.m. (1225 GMT).

Israel's military command acknowledged the attack and said in a statement that the jets targeted the fundamentalist Hezbollah (Party of God).

The group advocates the elimination of Israel and the creation of a puritan Islamic state in its place.

"The area attacked was under full control of the Hezbollah and Palestinian guerrillas killed nine SLA militiamen and wounded 14 others in a wave of attacks against the organization," the Israeli statement said.

N. Yemeni officer says his soldiers prevent secession

SANA'A (R) — The commander of a northern Yemeni brigade which fought southern troops last month said his unit was stopping the south from breaking away.

Colonel Ali Al Jayifi, commander of the Amaligha brigade, also accused troops of the former South Yemen of refusing to comply with orders from a joint military committee which is trying to disengage northern and southern forces.

His remarks were published on Monday by the weekly English-language Yemen Times.

Amaligha clashed with the southern Wahabi (unity) Brigade in the southern province of Abyan on Feb. 21, only hours after a national reconciliation accord signed in Jordan by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Beedh.

The two men were respectively leaders of North and South Yemen before the two merged in 1990.

Col. Jayifi told the Yemen Times that southern forces loyal to Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) tried to dislodge Amaligha from their southern base "because they have become an obstacle to the YSP's intention to declare separation from the Yemeni union."

This was the most serious and open charge by an army commander against the YSP since the fighting started, political sources said.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh entrusted a military committee with disengaging the forces, returning them to their original bases and organizing the withdrawal of army units from former North-South Yemen border areas.

The committee included Yemeni, Jordanian and Omani military men and the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa.

But Col. Jayifi said the southern forces refused "to comply with the orders of the military committee which seeks to disengage the forces. They got orders to return to their pre-Aug. 19 positions. They moved a few kilometers and stopped."

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the charge.

The crisis between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh surfaced on Aug. 19. A southern commander,

Life under Israeli guns

Colonel Salem Al Saidi of the pro-YSP popular militia forces in Abyan, told the Yemen Times that Amaligha troops were setting checkpoints and blocking normal military ammunition and other supplies to southern forces.

He said the Amaligha "want to continue to have the upper hand in the military balance."

There have been no fresh reports on the activities of the joint military committee and political sources said it had apparently run into problems in separating forces in the Al-Bayda Mukayra area, a district on the old North-South Yemen border where rival units face each other.

President Saleh vowed on Sunday to use all means to protect the unity of Yemen against attempts to destroy it.

Sanaa Television, reporting on Mr. Saleh's meeting with religious leaders and members of the judicial council, said he discussed "the ominous dangers threatening the unity of the country and the flare of civil sedition between its peoples."

"Unity belongs to all Yemenis," the television quoted Mr. Saleh as saying. "It is the destiny of our people and it will not be given up no matter what the price will be."

He added: "Our people will protect their unity by all means and will not allow anybody to threaten or endanger it."

He said efforts would continue to implement the peace accord he signed with Mr. Beedh in Jordan last month providing for political, economic, military and administrative reforms.

Mr. Saleh received a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman on efforts to solve the political crisis in Yemen. Sanaa Radio said.

The message was conveyed by Oman's electricity minister, Mohammad Ben Ali Al Qutaibi, who attended the funeral of North Yemen's first president, Field Marshal Abdullah Al Salal.

Libyan Deputy Premier Mustapha Kharroubi also arrived in Sanaa to attend the funeral and hold talks with Yemeni leaders, the radio said.

Mr. Beedh said in a statement that his YSP had decided unilaterally "to stop as of Sunday acrimonious media exchanges out of respect for Salal's memory."

The families' problems are shared in lingering inter-Arab



Kuwaitis with foreign husbands demand equal nationality rights

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, complaining about Kuwait's strict nationality laws, on Tuesday demanded that their children be granted Kuwaiti nationality and their husbands be allowed to work.

Kuwaiti women who are married to non-Kuwaitis are still suffering difficult and inhuman circumstances and their children are still deprived of minimal human rights," the Women's Social and Cultural Society said in a statement.

The group said it was voicing the feelings of 8,000 mixed marriage families for whom work and immigration formalities have become more difficult since Kuwait's 1991 Gulf war liberation from Iraqi occupation.

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The families' problems are shared in lingering inter-Arab

tensions following Iraq's seven-month occupation in 1990-91.

Kuwait's relations have been strained with a number of Arab states and groups since they expressed sympathy for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Many of the Women's husbands, mostly Yemenis, Sudanese, Iraqis, Palestinians, Jordanians and stateless Arabs, fled or were expelled during or after the Iraqi occupation and have not been allowed to return. Some of those who stayed have found it difficult to find work.

The women's statement listed seven demands:

— Facilitating employment for their husbands and sons, granting Kuwaiti nationality to children of Kuwaiti widows or divorcees who were married to non-Kuwaiti husbands, providing housing benefits for Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti husbands, allowing their children to apply for higher education institutions, free health care for their children, securing permanent residency for children and husbands, and allowing adults children to choose between the mother's or father's nationality.

Spy charge denied

A man accused by Iraq of

spying for Kuwait is neither a spy nor a Kuwaiti, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The man, Sabah Sultan Mardhi, is a stateless Arab and a former sergeant in the Kuwait air force who left the emirate of his own free will after the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Iraqi state television last week showed pictures of an alleged spy, who was not named, with instruments, documents and what the TV called fake identity papers with which he entered Iraq from Kuwait. The man is in detention in Iraq.

The television gave no details of its alleged spying, but official Iraqi newspapers said the Kuwaiti entered Iraq a year ago with instructions to carry out "terrorist and intelligence actions" inside Iraq.

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Al Anba reported: "A source in the moral guidance (public relations department) of the Defence Ministry said that officer the Iraqi regime alleged was a Kuwaiti spy is called Sabah Sultan Mardhi, a stateless (Arab), and he had been working in the Kuwait air force, and he left for Iraq directly after the liberation upon his own will."

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U.S. assails Sudan stand on rights investigator

GENEVA (AP) — The United States on Monday condemned Sudanese threats against a human rights investigator as a "flagrant abuse" of the very foundations of the United Nations.

In a campaign likened by some diplomats to Iran's sentence of death against British author Salman Rushdie, Sudan has attacked a report by U.N.-appointed expert Gaspar Biro as "blasphemous and accused him of being an enemy of Islam."

The United States condemned the threats the Sudanese government has levelled at the special rapporteur, Geraldine Ferraro, chief of U.N. Human Rights Commission.

"Such treatment constitutes

a flagrant abuse of the principles which are the very foundations of the United Nations," Ms. Ferraro said.

Ironically, Sudan is currently a member of the 53-nation commission, the U.N.'s top human rights watchdog.

In a wide-ranging speech to the commission, Ms. Ferraro also criticized gross violations in former Yugoslavia, Iran, Burma, Cuba, Zaire and China.

Despite long-standing allegations of human rights abuses in Tibet and the suppression of the pro-democracy movement, China is once again expected to escape formal criticism by the commission, which wraps up its six-week annual session this week.

Sudan is likely to be condemned. Mr. Biro's report accused the government of widespread executions and torture in "ghost houses" in northern Sudan and deliberate bombing of civilian targets in war-shattered southern parts.

Mr. Biro, a Hungarian lawyer, also charged that provisions in Sudan's criminal code on the death penalty, floggings and amputations, based on Islamic law, violated international conventions to which Sudan is party.

The government slammed these paragraphs as being "satanic" and demanded that Mr. Biro "be brought to justice" by the United Nations.

A prayer leader in Sudan has described the U.N. report as even more blasphemous than Mr. Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." A parliamentarian demanded a "fatwa" or religious dictum authorizing Muslims to slay Mr. Biro, similar to the Iranian order hanging over Mr. Rushdie's head.

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Home News



QUEEN NOOR HOSTSIFTAR: Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday receives her guests at an iftar for the wives of Arab and Muslim diplomats at Raghadan Palace. Attending the banquet were Their Royal Highnesses Princesses

Sarwat, Aisha and Rania, Mrs. Abdul Salam Majali, Mrs. Marwan Qassem and Mrs. In'am Mufti. The guests also included the wives of heads of international organisations, women activities and members of professional unions (Photo by George Crystal)

Government works on revising agricultural sector — Gammoh

AMMAN (Petra) — One day before a threatened strike by Jordan Valley farmers, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said the government was conducting a comprehensive revision of the agricultural sector in order to tackle impediments to production and marketing.

The revision is being conducted with the help of a Canadian firm, and the results will be announced soon, said the minister.

Mr. Gammoh was speaking

at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and members of the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee.

Jordan Valley farmers Sunday had said they would strike to urge the government to help them market their products locally and abroad at reasonable rates and to press for a reassessment of the country's agricultural policies.

According to Mr. Gammoh, the government continues to

search for new markets abroad for Jordanian agricultural products and is currently setting up a share holding company grouping the private and public sectors to help achieve that goal.

He said this company would become operative as of Aug. 1, 1994.

He added that the government is also forming a committee to stimulate the work of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

Mr. Gammoh was speaking

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince attends officer's iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday attended an iftar hosted by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh for army officers at the Officers' Club in Zarqa. Prince Hassan conveyed to those present at the Banquet the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and briefed them on the latest international and regional developments. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of defending the Constitution and safeguarding the Kingdom, pointing to the value of sound planning in developing the society. Prince Hassan and the officers performed Al Maghreb prayers together.

Princess Basma supervises distribution of aid

JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday supervised the distribution of in-kind contributions to 800 families in 21 population centres in the central Jordan Valley and donated JD 3,000 to the charitable society there. Princess Basma toured Fannoush, Maysarah and the southern Twal region, where she met with heads of village councils and representatives of the youth and women's sector.

18 women to be honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the General Federation of Jordanian Women Thursday will hold a special ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre to mark International Women's Day which fell Tuesday, according to the federation's president, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh. During the celebration 18 pioneers of voluntary work will be honoured.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ "Installation" inspired by Azraq by artist Andreja Kuluncic at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.). Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Art exhibition by artist Widad Al Orfali and Abdul Hussein Twaiji at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Uthaima (Tel. 826932).

★ Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Arqat at Ab'd Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fadel Mahmoud at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar displaying stationery, artificial flowers, hand-crafts, and clothes at the clinics compound of the Jordan University Hospital (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.).

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

★ Musical performance by the National Institute of Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Dr. Werner Wagner of poems by German poets Holderlin, Eichendorff, Heine, and Morike at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m.

Man arrested for burglaries in W. Amman Stolen cache put on display for retrieval by owners

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Tuesday arrested a man in the act of burglarising a home in the West Amman area, according to Amman Police Chief Brigadier General Abdullah Hababbeh.

According to Brig. Hababbeh, the suspect (31) was arrested in the pre-dawn hours while exiting a house he had just burglarised.

The official told the Jordan Times police were alerted by neighbours that a burglary was in progress next door. A nearby police unit responded to the call and apprehended the suspect.

Police said the man, identified as J.A.K., a father of three, confessed to the crime. The suspect also admitted committing similar burglaries in the past, said the police chief.

A search of the suspect's home in Sweileh revealed a large amount of stolen goods, including jewellery, watches, cameras, stereos, foreign currency and coin collections, said Brig. Hababbeh.

According to the official, the suspect had a police record involving several burglaries.

The official said, the suspect had sold some of the stolen items, and the authorities collected what remained and have called the burglary

victims to report to the Amman Police Department in Abdali to identify and retrieve their belongings.

Mr. Hababbeh called on the public to exert caution in protecting their valuables, particularly when they plan to be away from home. He added that citizens should alert their local police departments of any suspicious activities in their neighbourhoods.

Police search for reckless driver

Madaba police are searching for a man in his mid-30s who Monday evening refused to stop for a patrol, struck another traffic official about a few kilometres beyond the patrol, then crashed into an electricity pole and fled the scene on foot, a police report said.

The report said the patrol officers signalled for the driver of a gold BMW to pull over because the car he was driving bore no tags. But the driver sped up and passed the patrol, according to the report.

Police units in the area were alerted to look out for the suspect, who they described as driving recklessly.

A traffic official on motorcycle caught up with the suspect and signalled for him to pull over. Instead the suspect swerved his vehicle, striking the officer.

Items retrieved from several burglaries committed in the West Amman area are put on display

at the Amman Police Department in Abdali for identification and claim by burglary victims

passport was registered to a man with the initials F.T.F. and a customs statement registered to an individual with the initials F.K.D.

The report said the injured traffic official was listed in good condition.

Police searched the car and found a passport and some documents. They said the

Also Monday a police car patrol chased and apprehended a car thief in his mid-20s, a police official told the Jordan Times.

According to the official, the suspect confessed to stealing 14 other cars, all Mercedes.

He told police he stole the cars for joy rides.

IAF repeats demand for release of movie-house blast suspects

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies have reiterated their demand for the release of unconvicted Islamist activists arrested last month in connection with explosions in Amman and Zarqa movie theatres.

"We demand the release of those who were not convicted," before the fall of Eid Al Fitri at the beginning of next week, IAF parliamentary bloc spokesman Hamza Mansour said Tuesday.

Nine people were injured in last month's blasts at the Rivoli theatre in Amman and Sawa movie theatre in Zarqa. Informed sources had earlier linked the arrested suspects to what they called "the Afghans," which is a group of Jordanian Islamist fundamentalists who took part in the Afghan Mujahideen war against the former Soviet Union. IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush told the Jordan Times that the IAF lawmakers have

sent the government a memorandum in which they requested the release of the Islamist suspects but have received "no response yet."

Mr. Mansour said that "massive arrests" were made in connection with the explosions, and those not convicted should be released to ensure justice and freedom. He said he "fully" supported the "punishment" of individuals who are proven guilty of involvement in "the crime," but added that justice should be carried out towards those innocent of the charges brought against them.

A weekly tabloid Tuesday quoted IAF Deputy Mohammad Oweidah as saying that he had witnessed the arrest of the IAF secretariate "despite the fact that the arrest warrant did not have the secretariate's name on it."

Al Bilad weekly also quoted Mr. Oweidah as claiming that political parties were being harassed by security forces and that "democracy is being

crippled by these random arrests."

The tabloid quoted an unnamed senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement as saying that Islamists were targets of "rumours and traps which are the making of our Jewish enemies, their agents and collaborators."

According to Al Bilad, the brotherhood official rejected accusations that the government was trying to "harm the Islamists' reputation."

"His Majesty King Hussein spent his life calling for Arab and Muslim unity. (The King's) awareness and political wisdom are enough reason for us not to believe" that the government is spreading rumours against the Islamists, the paper quoted the brotherhood leader as saying.

IAF deputies are awaiting the return of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali from his trip to Saudi Arabia to perform Umra, to "remind" the government of the issue, said Mr. Mansour.

4 Asian countries confirm 1.4m tonnes in phosphate imports from Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan have confirmed that they are purchasing a total of 1.4 million tonnes of Jordanian phosphate during 1994, according to Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Sameh Madani.

Dr. Abu Bakr said these provisions have stressed the need for ensuring equality between men and women. But he said there is a large gap between these provisions and their implementation.

He noted that there are tremendous violations of women's rights in various parts of the world.

He added that a study was conducted on these countries' actual needs of phosphate and ways to enable Jordan to compete with the other mineral-exporting nations.

Mr. Madani told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he and the team accompanying him on the tour discussed JPMC's expansion projects, particularly at Shidieh mine in southern Jordan.

The JPMC had said that by the end of 1995, the Shidieh mines would produce as much as 2.7 million tonnes of phosphate annually.

The company last December published a statement in which it said the mines are being readied to produce up to 10 million tonnes of phosphate by the year 2000.

During the visit to Indonesia, said Mr. Madani, the team met with the minister of industry and briefed him on the company's operations.

Mr. Madani quoted the Indonesian minister as saying that his country was determined to cooperate with the JPMC.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Means for right end

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is wrong in interpreting the PLO's requests for effective security for the Palestinians as tantamount to renegotiating the terms of the Oslo accord. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Arab application for ensuring the physical safety of the Palestinians under occupation has nothing to do with what has already been negotiated and agreed upon between Israel and the PLO. Israel is bound to provide security for the people it has been occupying since 1967 under the Fourth Geneva Convention. There are no ifs or buts about Israel's treaty obligations which go beyond and supersede the Oslo agreement. Israel cannot therefore claim that calls for the implementation of the provisions of that convention relative to occupied territories would be like reopening Pandora's box. Rabin has a choice between opting for sense, reason and legality in this context or viewing the legitimate demands as turning the clock back on PLO-Israeli agreements.

Had the reverse occurred and one or two Palestinian zealots opened fire on worshippers at a synagogue killing and injuring tens of Jews, there would be no doubt that the whole Israeli people would be up in arms calling for the suspension of the peace talks with the Palestinian side if not ending them altogether. Rabin would be first to announce that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has demonstrated once again that he has no control over his people, rendering negotiations with him useless. As a matter of fact, the wave of attacks by Hamas activists against Israelis was repeatedly cited as proof that the PLO was no longer a viable partner in the quest for peace even though Palestinian extremists are on the opposite side of Arafat's men on the validity of current negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Instead of regarding the legitimate calls for adequate security as an impediment for peace, the Israelis could see the Palestinian demand as a vital necessity sanctioned and called for by applicable international standards on top of which is the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. There is no worse option than suspending the peace process for too long henceforth. The momentum could be lost if the parties cannot find common grounds for restarting it. The ball is in Rabin's court since it was one of his people who blew up the fuse that generated the energy for the PLO-Israeli peace negotiations thus far. Arafat, on the other hand, cannot under the circumstances ignore the reasonable calls from his own constituency for true security. The Palestinian leader has to satisfy public opinion too, and moreover he has to be able to pull the rug from under the feet of Palestinian hardliners who never wanted a peace process in the region in the first place. Rabin can and should admit that demands for security for Palestinians do not go beyond Israel's international treaty obligations. And such an argument can easily be justified on political grounds too, leading us all to continue with the peace effort right away.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THOSE WHO are waiting for the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution condemning the Israeli crime in Hebron must wake up to the fact that such move would never come about because Washington does not want it, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday.

The other nations at the Council, including the other four permanent members, have no say in such matter and are influenced by the United States — the strategic ally of the Jewish state, said the paper. It was wrong in the first place to lodge a complaint with the United Nations, and it is up to the Arabs and, if not to the Palestinians, particularly the relatives of the victims, to take revenge on the murderers, said the paper. The Arabs and Muslims should not expect any help in this regard from the world community and have to rely solely on themselves and take the matter into their own hands, it continued. The Arabs, said the paper, ought to realize that the massacre has not stirred the conscience of any leader in the row, Peking, Paris, London or Washington, nor has the suffice... of the Iraqi people convinced any of them to end the embargo. Therefore, said the paper, there is no alternative for the Arabs but to undertake a meaningful measure to deter the Israelis from committing further crimes.

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — Americans really did not need a major spy scandal to tell them that the honeymoon with Russia was over. But the arrest of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Aldrich Ames makes the point with some finality.

Yes, friendly countries do spy on each other. But Russia's spying on America (and vice versa) is of a different order than, say, reading France's E-mail. And were the French to discover someone passing secrets to the United States, he would hardly be shot, as were agents Mr. Ames allegedly betrayed to Moscow.

That is the difference between peering in on friends and spying on rivals. The Ames episode helps define Russia clearly. It is not an ally. At best, it is a potential partner, though that is many years off. For now, it is a rival with diverging interests.

But not a mortal enemy. It is important to keep that distinction in mind against the alarmists who would point to Mr. Ames and have us believe that nothing has really changed since the cold war. Everything has changed.

The Soviet Union was a mortal enemy, unrelentingly hostile because it defined its interests as intrinsically opposed to those of the West. It held deeply that there were two opposing camps in a world with only room for

M. KAHIL



U.S.-Russian relations set for a nosedive

one. All conflicts were thus zero-sum (with one exception: nuclear weapons, which had the potential to destroy both camps simultaneously).

Russia today is far different. It is ideologically hostile to the West. Properly speaking, it cannot be said to have any ideology at all. It does, however, have national interests. Some are compatible with America's, some are not.

In Central Asia, for example, where the Soviets are meddling in the civil war in Tajikistan, Russian and

American interests coincide. Meddling in the Baltics and Ukraine, on the other hand, a front line of Western democracy, is not all right with America.

Dealing with Russia will require that U.S. officials grow up and adopt a nuanced view of Russian actions and intentions. Russia is a great power. It seeks a sphere of influence. Some of this seeking Americans do not like and will oppose. The result will be conflict.

The next major flash point

is Crimea, the formerly Russian province now part of Ukraine. A Crimean war, if not headed off by some compromise, threatens a serious U.S.-Russian confrontation.

Another flash point is Bosnia. Recently, things looked deceptively amicable. By getting the Serbs to acquiesce to NATO's Sarajevo ultimatum, Russia took the West off the hook. But the relief with which the Russian entry into Sarajevo was greeted in the United States was extraordinarily shortsighted. Americans were relieved of

pathies and interests lie with Ukraine. A Crimean war, if not headed off by some compromise, threatens a serious U.S.-Russian confrontation.

Another flash point is Bosnia. Recently, things looked deceptively amicable. By getting the Serbs to acquiesce to NATO's Sarajevo ultimatum, Russia took the West off the hook. But the relief with which the Russian entry into Sarajevo was greeted in the United States was extraordinarily shortsighted. Americans were relieved of

the need to carry out the threat of air strikes. But the Russians are not in Sarajevo on America's behalf. They are there on behalf of the Serbs.

The Russian presence shields the Serbs from NATO attack. The United States is not about to drop bombs that could kill Russians.

While a ceasefire is an immediate relief to the Bosnian Muslims, it is a strategic gain for the Bosnian Serbs. A ceasefire in place is a Serbian objective, not a Muslim one. The Serbs would very much like an armistice that leaves them with the 72 per cent of Bosnia they hold today. It is the Muslims who want to fight on to regain lost territory.

The Russians have now intervened on the ground and at the peace table on behalf of the Serbs. America has taken up the cause of the Muslims. Two great powers, two conflicting interests. With the Sarajevo ultimatum, Americans and Russians enter upon a serious, potentially dangerous game of Balkan roulette.

"The period of market romanticism is now over," declared Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin upon assembling his reform-minded government in Moscow last month. But it is not just Russia's filing with market reform that is over. The diplomatic honeymoon with the West is over too.

The Ames affair did not cause the honeymoon's end. It only marks the end. It is a minor event. But it signals the truly major event playing out today in Bosnia, tomorrow in Crimea: two great powers, after a momentary embrace, going their own way.

The Washington Post.

On the brink of power

Italy's left likely to lose elections to opposition

By Ed Vulliamy

ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC Left Party is the heir to a mighty tradition of red-blooded radical politics, and is now the core of the broad opposition alliance aspiring to become Italy's next government.

The party is at the same time standard-bearer of a Communist legacy without parallel in Western Europe, and the pilot of what it hopes is a new form of social democracy which can triumph against the grain of modern European politics.

The party has attempted to modernise, polish and adapt itself to present the first serious challenge to the Italian power machine ruined by the corruption scandals.

Having dropped the word communist in 1991, along with the hammer and sickle, the party this week even dropped the word "left", in a manifesto hailed by its paper *l'Unità* as being "for a government not of the left, but of reconstruction."

With its new programme for the rebuilding of "social capitalism" in tattered, battered, absurd Italy, the PDS hopes to win a consensus wide enough to seize the centre ground.

But instead, the party's fortunes continue to sway to and fro like a weathercock in a February gale, as it tries to hold the left alliance together, trades policies in return for votes, combats the formidable system of mass media ranged against it, but then itself lurches into the same scandals as its adversaries.

The broad but precarious left-wing alliance which the PDS assembled is going to the electorate with a promise of reform, and an emphasis on "the moral question" in politics. But within 48 hours this week, the party's deputy leader and rising star Massimo D'Alema joined the list of those under investigation for illegal financing of political parties, and for the second time in a year party officials in the north have been arrested on the discovery of mysterious bank accounts in Switzerland, traced to the PDS.

Fifteen local PDS officials in the Venice region received warrants as one councillor, Renato Morandini, tried to explain how £100,000 of Fiat money was found in his Swiss account.

The PDS says this is all the result of a dirty political plot, and history gives them plenty of reason to presume so — especially since D'Alema's accuser is the disgraced Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, the key figure in the Italian corruption

saga. Their opponents report that the Communists and the PDS were and are as much part of the old balance of power as any of the other players in Italy's Byzantine political labyrinth.

The truth is somewhere in between. The involvement of the Communists and the PDS in the squalid machinations of corruption was negligible and amateurish compared to the real professionals from the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties. But involved they certainly were.

The first PDS official to come forward in Milan, at the start of the scandals, was a gregarious fellow called Luigi Carnevale, who was the party's representative on the unofficial committee which allegedly divided up the spoils of bribes paid for contracts to work on Milan's transport systems.

The scandal spread to cover contracts handed out to the various "Red Co-operatives" in the north, whose shares of the work kept money flowing illegally to the old PCI. A party factotum called Primo Greganti was found to be the holder of secret bank accounts in Switzerland, although he insisted that they were his private business and nothing to do with the party.

The PDS's opponents hope such behaviour by party officials and leaders will blot out the party's message. Added to which, as the PDS struggles to combat the alliance of Silvio Berlusconi with the old guard, the fascists and the rebel Northern League, the party is still itself lurching into the same scandals as its adversaries.

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The Italian communists have for many years been replacing Leninist ideas with "broad democratic alliances" at their fortress of Bologna and other cities in the central "Red Belt", steering a very capitalist economic boom under violent siege from the regime which culminated in the station bomb of 1980.

But the "Bologna model" held its ground, and by the time Mikhail Gorbachev had dissolved the CPSU, Occhetto had already metamorphosed

into a wider constituency, moving into the vacuum created by the collapse of the ruling parties. It appealed to the liberal Catholic intelligentsia and the overalled working class at its peak of popularity.

The gaggle of bus drivers in the Piazza Venezia are still deep red. Said Mauro Rizzo: "I've always voted Communist and I'll vote for Occhetto obviously, although I think he's a weak man and I'm not sure what his policies are. The Communists used to defend the workers, but this lot seem to want to defend everybody, which isn't possible."

"For me," said Giovanna Mele on a fruitstall, "the leopard never changes his spots. You can't be a Communist one minute and a good Italian the next. Not everyone who vote for them will be Communist, but Occhetto's a Communist, and look at some of the people he's got with him! — against the Church and against Italy. Berlusconi is a good man and a patriot."

Others, however, feel as though they are being forced into Occhetto's arms. "I do not like Communism and I never have," says the old Jewish banker Giacomo Piccirillo. "I'm a businessman and I've always voted for the centre, the Republicans. Now I have to vote for Occhetto."

The manifesto they have to consider was drawn up after months of consultations spanning trade unions, the Bank of Italy and the employers' federation.

The PDS does not promise an immediate lowering of taxes and interest rates, which it says would be inflationary, but does pledge a "decentralisation of state impositions on the tax-payer" and a general reduction in state services.

As the present election campaign opened, the PDS seemed to have the upper hand. The alliances it had piloted at the mayoral elections were holding together on the national stage.

But the squabbling soon started: between the PDS and the Greens, the Network and the re-vamped Socialists, the free-market Socialists and Communists Refoundation; with poor Occhetto trying to mediate and stop the house from falling down before the election on March 27. You cannot please all the people all of the time, especially when your main opponent — Silvio Berlusconi — controls the networks that preach brashly to 60 per cent of the television viewing public.

However, the PDS manifesto is an attempt to do just that. The party has either found an

innovative balance between old Socialist ideals and the new realities of the market, or else it has been caught between the contradictions innate within the squabbling constituencies it now seeks to represent.

So far the signs are that the appeal of the "Progressive" alliance is moving only a little distance beyond the old Communist alliance between the hornrimmed intelligentsia and the overalled working class at its peak of popularity.

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Rather, the ruling conservatives and the main Labour Party opposition sense in the minority Liberal Democrats a threat to Britain's two-party system — even though the party at present holds only 22 of the 651 seats in the House of Commons.

"Beyond Westminster," Ashdown sets out why he thinks the political tide might be ready to turn again and carry the Lib Dems into the big leagues.

The book narrates Mr. Ashdown's experiences living for much of 1993 among different groups of people up and down Britain, ranging from silk weavers in Suffolk to a Bangladeshi grocer's family in the drug-infested most side district of Manchester.

His conclusion? People are fed up with politics as usual, especially the navel-gazing by lawmakers and journalists in the hothouse atmosphere of Westminster, the seat of parliament.

"No one is at all convinced by the shouting and overheated rhetoric in parliament, except as a kind of running political soap opera which is entertaining to watch but irrelevant to the real things that matter. In short the gap between government and governed in Britain is dangerously wide and getting wider."

This would be a self-serving conclusion in the extreme, gently inviting readers to snuggle up to the Lib Dem alternative, if it did not reflect a trend apparent elsewhere.

Mr. Ashdown sees the large vote for Texan billionaire Ross Perot in the 1992 U.S. presidential election, and the rapid decline of establishment parties in countries such as Italy and Japan, as possibly auguring a crisis in Democracy.

"I have become more and more convinced that this dislocation between politics and real life is creating a dangerous and growing gap between politicians and people in Britain and other advanced Western democracies," he writes.

Mr. Ashdown, 53 and leader of the Liberal Democrats since 1988, finds a Britain that is deeply divided. Some inner city areas are so sunk in poverty, lawlessness and despair that they are, effectively, not part of the country at all. He says.

Britain's Liberal Democrats eye election breakthrough

By Alan Wheatley
Reuter

LONDON — Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown is mocked by his detractors as the prince Charles of British politics, earnestly prescribing worthy remedies for society's ills with the ease of someone who has no real power.

But it is not just because he is seen as smug and sometimes sanctimonious that the former paratrooper with boyish good looks is loudly jeered whenever he rises to speak in parliament.

Rather, the ruling conservatives and the main Labour Party opposition sense in the minority Liberal Democrats a threat to Britain's two-party system — even though the party at present holds only 22 of the 651 seats in the House of Commons.

"The Liberal Democrats remain the most important potential catalyst of change in British politics," said the left-leaning *Guardian* newspaper in an editorial.

Elections due in the coming months are likely to confirm this potential.

This would be a self-serving conclusion in the extreme, gently inviting readers to snuggle up to the Lib Dem alternative, if it did not reflect a trend apparent elsewhere.

Mr. Ashdown sees the large vote for Texan billionaire Ross Perot in the 1992 U.S. presidential election, and the rapid decline of establishment parties in countries such as Italy and Japan, as possibly auguring a crisis in Democracy.

Features

Women Arab artists defy misconceptions

THOUGH THE National Museum for Women in the Arts isn't known for flaming polemics, you'd expect its new show on women in the Arab World to be, if not too hot to handle, at least politically volatile. The people who put the show together, female Arab artists and sculptors from 15 countries, would answer that that's just one more media misconception about their lives.

In fact, a wholly unexpected feeling of creativity and freedom emerges from "Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World," which runs at the museum through May,

and though it has its pointed moments, the show has steered clear so far of a single home-government or embassy complaint. Perhaps more remarkable, political friction was minimal at a full-day symposium on "Women in the Arab World" held at the museum last weekend. The seven-year-old museum had begun trying to outgrow its early reputation of extreme soft-spokenness (a recent show dealt with breast cancer). But the lingering low-key, determinedly nonpolitical approach has its payoffs, and one is to allow visitors to encounter in a nonaggressive state the remarkably rich collection of works, from illuminated calligraphy to big abstract installations, from a set of cultures too often associated only with conflict and grief.

One surprise is the emergence of a surprisingly familiar, indeed a recognizably American theme — a sense of bridging and incorporation, of artists trying to pick a path between modern art and a long past, that should ring true for many American

artists lost in the thickets of hyphenated identity. "Just as a person cannot survive long without memory," says the wall copy in one room, "societies cannot evolve creatively without carrying some collective sense of their heritage into the future."

Curator Salwa Mikdadi Nashashibi, herself a wanderer who has lived in five Arab countries, says the trick was to find the familiar "unity in diversity," to balance what is different about all these countries with what, for the purposes of a coherent show, could be considered the same.

The common ground, surely to the layman's surprise, is not the widespread popular image of the Arab woman, silenced and put-upon female population stuck somewhere between the belly dancer, the harem and modern religious arguments about veiling. Instead there is a lively attempt to knit modern, often abstract art out of the rich and double-edged traditions of the long Middle Eastern cultural past. Anger and restriction do play a role: The tradition contains many barriers against which the show's artists struggle. But the harem it most certainly is not.

One room, "Image and Word," offers the ways in which artists of four different nationalities make visual use of the Arabic calligraphy that plays so dramatic a role in traditional Islamic art. Another, filled with a giant installation called "Schereza-de 101," turns the theme of the famous "Arabian Nights" storyteller into a roomful of 101 panels, from shawl fringe and satin pillow to Pepsi cans, that does more than any news footage to evoke the

chaotic, jumbled textures of the modern Middle East.

The subjects are by no means all female. Some involve men in the public sphere, like the "Willing to Beg" collage of 50s-suited male figures at the entryway; others are explicitly universal, like the professions of faith engraved on modernist ceramic plates by Iraqi artist Wasma'a K. Chorbachi. That the work is by women seems mainly to offer the extra jolt of distance from the tradition so that ideas come through fresh.

"We're not showing anything here that's unusual in the Arab World," Ms. Nashashibi says. "The media in the Arab World support the Arab woman as artist and encourage her to exhibit."

At the symposium on women in the Arab World, featuring discussions of everything from Iraqi archaeology to Palestinian women's rights, speakers referred frequently to Arab feminist movements of long historical standing, some underappreciated by sister movements in the West. One speaker, the first woman in Sudan to qualify as a surgeon, made the interesting suggestion that the much-covered fundamentalist movements have in some cases arisen specifically in countries with, and arguably in response to, visible and substantive progress by women.

"That's why people come to literature," she said at Washington, D.C., reading last week, responding to an audience question at Chapters Bookstore. "Because real life is so much richer than politics, and people get tired of illusions and assumptions."

Jordanian artists who are taking part in the exhibition are Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Hind Nasser, Saha Shoman, Samia Zarou and Mouna Soudi.

The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

Kalashnikov A name to dread, a smile to disarm

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

"DOES IT trouble you, Mikhail Timofeyevich, that your creation has killed so many people around the world?"

The kind-eyed old gentleman had heard the question before. Clearly, he had even put it to himself at times, in those long winters hidden away in the Russian heartland.

"All I can say," he replied, "is that terrorists would have found something else to kill people with, even if there weren't my Kalashnikovs."

Forget U.S. President Bill Clinton, forget Russian President Boris Yeltsin, forget Marx. For the gunboys of Somalia and the old boys of Vietnam, for the gang of Los Angeles and the grunts of Bosnia, the name that matters is the name whose parts — Kah-Lash-Nik-Off — snap and click into place like a fresh magazine of high-velocity ammunition.

Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, still cherub-cheeked if silver-haired at 74, was almost a boy himself, age 23, when he began designing the assault rifle they eventually dubbed the AK-47 "Avtomat Kalashnikova 1947."

If power grows, as Mao said, from the barrel of a gun, this was the gun.

In 40 years as the standard issue for Soviet-style forces, as the weapon of choice for guerrillas from Vietnam to Nicaragua, as the everyday tool of terrorists, perhaps 50 million copies of the "AK" its descendants and clones have been produced in almost a dozen countries.

Rugged, dependable, cheap and 600-rounds-a-minute lethal, the no-frills Kalashnikov is history's most widely distributed piece of

pinch himself, not having been showered with rich royalties like U.S. gun designers. "But the government was never against giving me medals," he joked.

The hard-pressed local arms plants have hit on a Western-style marketing inspiration, capitalising on the great designer's name by forming something called "The Kalashnikov Joint Stock Co."

In a telephone interview from Izhevsk, an Izhmash deputy director, Alexander G. Likhachev, explained that the new company, whose shareholders are all state enterprises, is gearing up for an export push. He threw in a pitch for kalashnikov rifles:

"They're highly reliable and have a long service life. ... They are better than, say, similar American products."

But Mr. Kalashnikov himself seems out of the corporate loop. He thought his namesake company had never gotten off the ground. Then again, he acknowledged with a laugh, he has no head for business. "I'm just a designer."

It's evidence of the confusion that reigns as Russians try to reorganise their post-Soviet economy.

The looser times at least have set the old designer loose to see the world, including America, where he was interviewed by the Associated Press while attending a recent gun show

in Dallas.

"They really kept him prisoner all those years," said American friend and host Berge Boghossian, an arms dealer who calls Mr. Kalashnikov "the sweetest man on Earth."

Emerging from his cage means facing questions, however, about sharing responsibility for a violent world, and that means retelling the story of the AK-47's origins:

In 1941, tank commander Kalashnikov was wounded in a battle with Russia's German invaders. In the hospital, other wounded men complained of their army's deficit in infantry weapons ancient bolt-action rifles versus the Germans' modern firearms. Sgt. Kalashnikov, a clever mechanic, decided to spend his recuperation building a machine pistol like the Germans'.

His pistol was never put into service, but it established him as a weapons maker, and in 1943 he competed with other designers on Russia's first assault rifle — a weapon firing light rounds at a rapid rate, and also capable of single-round semiautomatic fire. When they dragged the Kalashnikov weapon through swamp water and it still fired, he was on his way.

The moral of the AK-47 story: "I built it to protect my country."

Today, Mr. Kalashnikov still designs weapons, but only hunting rifles.

"I'm not going to work on any more military things," he said.

Has he sworn off man-killing devices?

The cheerful old father of famous guns hesitated and smiled. "No," he explained. "It's just that, into the next century, nothing is going to be made better than by rifle anyway."

Army says killings could have been prevented

(Continued from page 1)

worshippers were gathered in the Ibrahim Mosque. On the other side of a partition, 13 Jews were praying, Gen. Yatom said. The Jewish worshippers told army investigators they did not see Goldstein enter the mosque.

Under the security arrangements, 10 troops should have been posted at the entrances to the compound and inside, Gen. Yatom said. Instead, only one army officer was on duty inside and four border policemen were stationed at two gates outside.

Three additional border policemen should have been there by 5 a.m. but overslept. One should have been posted inside and two at the gates, Gen. Yatom said.

The officers inside sent a soldier who should have patrolled indoors to another posting away from the compound and an Israeli policeman did not show up for indoor duty, Gen. Yatom said.

Gen. Yatom did not go further detail but said in response to a question that no armed Israelis were allowed in the mosque area during Muslim prayers. Goldstein was wearing his army reserve uniform at the time and was known to the guards.

Goldstein apparently entered the Ibrahim Mosque through the main gate, along with the Muslim worshippers. Once inside, he fired long bursts from his Gali automatic rifle.

By the time the guard officer had pushed his way into the mosque, the shooting was over and he found Goldstein lying in a corner, beaten to death by worshippers, Gen. Yatom said.

Gen. Yatom rejected claims by several Palestinian witnesses who said that Goldstein had at least one settler accomplice inside the mosque and that several fleeing worshippers were wounded by army gunfire outside the tomb area.

Gen. Yatom said according to soldiers, three of the Palestinians may have been trampled to death when worshippers fled. Gen. Yatom insisted soldiers did not kill anyone inside the mosque but did shoot dead four or five others in clashes in Hebron that day.

Israeli radio and television stations broadcast the hearing live from Israel's supreme court. Gen. Yatom gave two and a half hours of public

2 Palestinians shot and killed

(Continued from page 1)

issued Monday, the Al Qassam Brigades threatened suicide attacks if settlers do not move out of the occupied lands.

"We will not let them enjoy the luxury of sleep in their homes or a feeling of safety on the road," it said. "We have chosen our targets and our living martyrs have been instructed to carry out the suicide operations."

The group said it had decided on a five-stage plan to avenge the mosque massacre, "and each stage will make the Israeli people and the settlers cry in blood for their dead."

Asked whether Hamas has singled out potential targets for the threatened attacks if settlers do not evacuate Kiryat Arba, home of Baruch Goldstein, the mosque killer, and other settlements called Gush Katif, Kedumim, Tekoa and Ariel by March 15 as the group is demanding, Mr. Nazzal said:

"The general targets are (the Israeli) military and settlers...

the leadership of Hamas has issued orders to all (Al Qassam) units to continue the resistance against occupation."

U.N. urged

(Continued from page 1)

Russian diplomats said Victor Posovoluk, head of Middle East affairs at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Arafat focused on "efforts at the Security Council to issue a resolution on the massacre."

The diplomats said Russia is not mediating between the PLO and Israel but only trying

testimony before the panel closed the session at his request.

Judge Shamgar announced that the panel would on Wednesday visit the massacre site.

"It's important that we become familiar with the place in order to understand the explanations and evidence that will be given to us," the chief justice said.

The commission will look into whether the army, which is responsible for security at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, could have done anything to prevent the massacre, and whether adequate security was in place.

Few members of the public

were invited to attend the inquiry. Proceedings went behind closed doors whenever officers testified about deployment details.

The most recent event broadcast from the same chambers was the supreme court appeal of John Demjanjuk, acquitted last year of being the Nazi guard Ivan the Terrible.

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to defuse the crisis caused by the massacre through "issuing a good resolution appropriate to both sides."

Mr. Posovoluk, a Middle East expert and former Soviet envoy to several Arab capitals, is the second Russian emissary to Mr. Arafat in a week. Igor Ivanov, first deputy foreign minister, met Mr. Arafat twice last week in a Russian bid to end the deadlock in the PLO-Israel talks.

"We have a lot of work to complete and big missions to carry out, so let's continue our work," he added.

Basel, an army captain engineer, was widely regarded as a possible successor to his father although he held no such official title.

Arab MK urges pullout

(Continued from page 1)

writers and other prominent Israeli Arabs, arrived in Damascus Monday on the first open visit by Israelis to Syria.

Israel seized Quneitra, once the provincial capital of the Golan Region, 80 kilometers southwest of Damascus, in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

It relinquished the town in 1974 after razing it to the ground and pulled back to a ceasefire line just west of the town. Most of the inhabitants had fled during the 1967 war.

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Economy

U.S. government urged to press for overseas sales

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior Commerce Department trade official said Tuesday it was essential that the U.S. government mount active selling campaigns overseas to match the aggressive sales tactics of other governments.

Undersecretary for International Trade Jeffrey Garten said many nations in Asia are ready to buy big-ticket items such as power generating and telecommunications equipment, but tough competition is coming from other selling countries.

"I think what we're facing, with these huge opportunities, is a level of competition that is really quite awesome," he said.

Mr. Garten added that many foreigners use bribery to win contracts, but such U.S. company action is against the law. And he added that no U.S. firm had asked that the law be changed.

He noted that the issue of adding members to the North American Free Trade Agreement arose in Singapore, and told inquirers the treaty covering the United States, Mexico and Canada was far more than a simple trade agreement.

It said it also covered workers' rights and environmental matters, in addition to free trade, and that President Clinton would decide by this summer which nations might be eligible to negotiate free trade agreements.

European Union threatens limited trade sanctions against U.S.

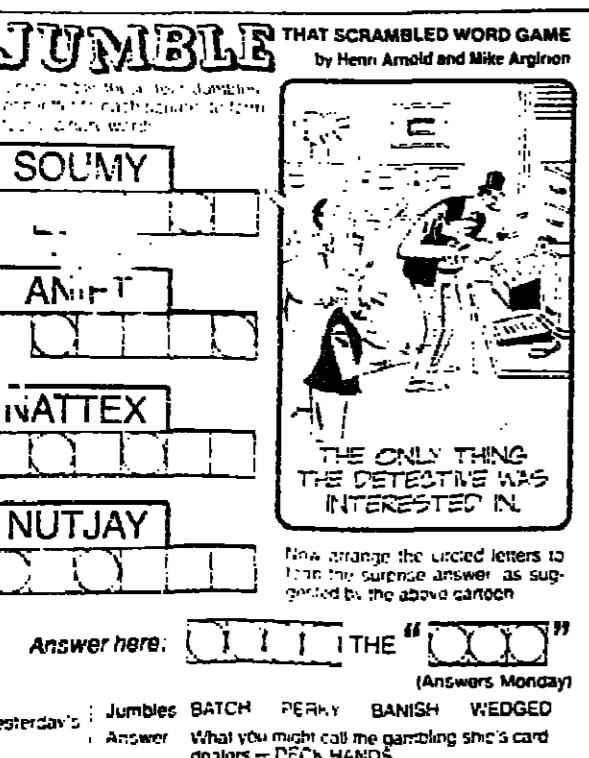
BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) Tuesday threatened limited tit-for-tat trade sanctions against imports from the United States because of concern that U.S. tariff cuts fell below expectations.

EU foreign ministers said in a statement that they agreed with the European Commission on the need for a "readjustment" of the EU's schedule of tariff cuts offered under the GATT Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

"Such readjustment should be of a limited character and bear in mind the need to avoid being held responsible for any unravelling of the tariff negotiations results," the statement said.

It added that any adjustment should target products where the United States supplied 90 per cent of EU imports.

Commission sources said the non-ferrous metals sector would be targeted under the limited sanctions plan because of dissatisfaction with the level of tariff cuts offered by Washington on copper and trucks.



Europeans may get small part of Saudi jet deal

DUBAI (R) — Europe's aviation industry could secure at least a small part of a \$6 billion Saudi commercial aircraft deal won by the United States, industry sources said Tuesday.

They said Saudia, the kingdom's flag carrier, was showing strong interest in an engine for short-haul aircraft made by American, Japanese and European manufacturers — the International Aero Engines (IAE) V2500.

Another Franco-American engine made by CFM International, a 50-50 joint venture between General Electric Corp and France's state-owned SNECMA, could be chosen if Saudi Arabia decides to buy Boeing 737s.

Engines account for 20-25 per cent of the value of an airliner.

Mr. Garten added that many foreigners use bribery to win contracts, but such U.S. company action is against the law. And he added that no U.S. firm had asked that the law be changed.

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announced last month that Riyadh has decided to award American makers an order for at least 50 aircraft.

The sources said Saudi Arabia had yet to decide the total number, which could be up to 60 airliners, and the European consortium Airbus Industrie says it still hopes to land part of the deal.

The presidents of America's Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas have been invited to send negotiating teams to the kingdom to discuss details after March 20.

"The Americans will go to Saudi Arabia at the end of March... and Saudis will try to negotiate the best possible deal," said an industry source of the talks, which are expected to be tough and complex.

Details of the deal have not been agreed but sources said Saudi Arabia was looking to buy three classes of aircraft.

They said Saudi, which flies non-stop to the United States, appears inclined to make an initial order for at least 10 Boeing 747-400s for long-range flights and could also take an option on a further 10.

The sources said Saudi Arabia appeared to favour the American Pratt and Whitney engines for the 747s against Britain's Rolls-Royce engines, already in service with its fleet.

In addition, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing are competing to meet Saudi's requirement for 10-15 300-seat aircraft and 20-30 150-seat planes for short-range flights.

"Saudi Arabia has about 26 airports and needs aircraft for domestic flights and for two to three-hour flights to near Gulf Arab states," an expert said.

"Saudi Arabia is interested in the long-body MD-11, possibly equipped with General Electric engines, to replace

Lockheed Tristar aircraft. Boeing, meanwhile, is offering 767s and 777s with either General Electric or Pratt and Whitney engines.

Experts said Saudi officials were pleased with two MD-11s now used in the private royal fleet. The three-engined MD-11 can carry between 298 to 323 passengers up to 8,000 nautical miles.

The two American aircraft giants are also in the running for the shorter range class with Boeing's 737 and McDonnell's twin-engine MD-90.

Both aircraft are likely to be powered by the IAE engine, one of the quietest in the world. IAE is a global collaboration of engine manufacturers that includes Pratt and Whitney, Rolls-Royce, Germany's Motor and Turbinen-Union, Japanese Aero Engines Corp and Italy's Fiat Aviazione.

Alba cutting 20,000 tonnes aluminium per year

MANAMA (R) — Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba), the Gulf's largest aluminium producer, announced a decision Tuesday to cut its annual output by 20,000 tonnes a year to support a weak global market.

And it hinted at possible further reductions if others would join international efforts to boost the price.

"Several discussions have taken place among the Middle East smelters on ways of supporting the present international drive to reestablish balance between supply and demand in the primary aluminium market," it said.

"It is the general opinion among aluminium producers that the global production rate must be reduced by around 10 per cent from levels at the start of 1994. Following these discussions, Aluminium Bahrain has decided to reduce production by 20,000 tonnes per annum," it added.

The statement said both the commission and the council of ministers were concerned that these final offers "might compromise the expected balance of mutual concessions agreed to on Dec. 15, "when the seven-year GATT talks were gavelled to a close in Geneva.

The commission sources could give no indication of the extent to which U.N. offers of tariff cuts on trucks and copper fell short of the commission's expectations.

The foreign ministers' statement concern at the U.S. administration's decision last week to revive the so-called Super 301 provision.

G-10 central bankers say no hedge fund regulation yet

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Central bankers are keeping a close watch on massive, unregulated investment funds but do not see any need yet to regulate their activities, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said Monday.

Known as hedge funds, the huge pools of highly leveraged capital that take speculative positions in and across different financial markets are too highly leveraged and could trigger a dangerous chain reaction in the international banking sector if one failed and was unable to meet commitments to bank creditors.

Attention has been focused on hedge funds following the collapse of global bond prices and news the Bank of England had reportedly asked bankers their opinions on the activities of hedge funds. The U.S. Federal Reserve is also believed to be planning as investigation.

The Bank of England is thought to be particularly concerned about British clearing and merchant banks which are both government bond market-makers and investor in bonds themselves.

Mr. Tietmeyer, acting to calm worries on international financial markets, said the governors saw no reason for further turbulence and believed recent volatility in the global bond market was simply an exaggerated correction triggered by the Federal Reserve's surprise tightening of credit last month.

The volatility of markets was to some extent the reflection of overshooting, Mr. Tietmeyer said. "The fundamentals are more or less sound and that means there is no reason for further turbulence."

Mr. Tietmeyer was careful not to target hedge funds alone and stressed that the governors had discussed hedging activities by any institution.

EU jobless total tops 19 million

BRUSSELS (R) — Unemployment in the European Union (EU) climbed to 19.1 million people in January from 18.6 million in December and 17.3 million at the start of last year, the European Commission's statistics office said Tuesday.

Eurostat said the seasonally-adjusted rate of unemployment in January edged up to 10.8 per cent of the workforce from a revised 10.8 per cent in December and 10 per cent a year ago.

It noted that the figures for January this year indicated that there had been a steady or even a slight fall in unemployment over the month in Germany, Denmark, Italy, Britain and Ireland, but that joblessness was still on the increase in Belgium, Spain and Portugal.

The largest increases over the year were in Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, with smaller rises in France, Italy and Denmark.

There were slight declines in the rate of unemployment in Ireland and Britain, there were no figures for Greece.

Spain continued to have the highest rate of unemployment at 22.9 per cent, followed by Ireland with 18.2 per cent, France and Italy on 11.2 per cent, Britain and Denmark on 10.3 per cent, the Netherlands on 10 per cent, Portugal on 9.9 per cent, Belgium 9.9 per cent, Germany six per cent, Luxembourg five per cent and Luxembourg three per cent.

During the year the rate of unemployment for people under the age of 25 years climbed to 21.1 per cent from 19.3 per cent.

German unemployment rises to 4.04 million

BONN (R) — Unemployment in Germany rose to a post-war record of 4.04 million in February, edging closer to the five million level last seen in the Weimar republic that helped bring Adolf Hitler to power in 1933.

Adding to the bleak picture was data released Tuesday on western Germany, showing the region's economy had slumped in the last quarter of 1993.

The jobless rate for united Germany comprised 2.74 million in west Germany and 1.30 million in the former communist east. The Federal Labour Office said the pan-German jobless rate was 10.5 per cent in February.

The economics ministry said fourth quarter gross domestic product (GDP), which the government previously said was unchanged, was revised to a fall of 0.5 per cent from the previous quarter and a drop of 0.9 per cent from a year earlier.

The fourth quarter fall follows two successive quarters of growth. There was no change to previously announced data showing the economy contracted 1.9 per cent in the full year.

The government put a brave face on the figures, saying the economy could only grow from here on.

"All the basic indicators in Germany are pointing upwards," Finance Minister Theo Waigel said. "The economic situation will generally improve in 1994, despite high unemployment."

Economists said they still expected west German growth of between zero and one per cent for 1994.

"The general assumption is that we are in the early stages of a recovery, apart from some

setbacks we may have in the first quarter for consumption and investment," Peter Pietsch, economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt, said.

But the introduction of various new taxes at the beginning of this year could hit GDP harder in the first quarter than many economists expect, he said.

"We could even see a fall in GDP in the first quarter compared to the fourth quarter. Then we would have had two consecutive quarters of decline and some may start to talk of a double-dip recession," he said.

Alison Cottrell of Midland Global Markets in London said: "We should see some pick-up in output in the first quarter of 1994 and a rise in retail sales because of low fourth quarter data."

West Germany's unemployment rate rose to 8.9 per cent of the workforce in February, from 8.8 per cent in January, while in eastern Germany the rate was 17.1 per cent compared with 17.0 per cent.

Adjusted for seasonal variations, west German unemployment rate rose to 2.55 million in February from 2.52 million in January.

The rise of 24,000 in the seasonally-adjusted west German unemployment figure reflected a slowing in the rate of increase in joblessness.

Joachim Fels of Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt said the moderate wage deal agreed in the engineering industry last weekend would help to slow the rise in unemployment further by keeping a lid on real wage rises.

Union of Swiss Banks in Frankfurt said it expected west German unemployment growth of between zero and one per cent for 1994.

"The general assumption is that we are in the early stages of a recovery, apart from some

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's better to wait until late afternoon before making those new arrangements you have in mind after you have handled any responsibility or promise that needed attending to. Spend money wisely.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you comprehend the ideas and needs of associates, you can then carry through efficiently and gain their backing. Seek outside help.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An ideal day to make plans to gain your personal aims and then put your efforts to work. Think of loved ones first and you will be ahead.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have those talks with others that can be helpful to you in business or personal life. Enjoy the company of good friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to please a loved one before getting involved in a heavy workload. Work at a regulated pace for best results and efficiency.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some good ideas for economizing. Make a campaign of action and then go ahead with it. Seek help from fellow associates.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A bigwig is willing to support you in a career affair. Good friends can also be helpful. Don't neglect credit affairs which need to be handled.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study new conditions you want to set up and then contact higher-ups who can give you support. Start plans for a trip you will take.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget the social obligations for now and concentrate on unfinished projects. Get more information about newcomers before you deal with them.

THE Daily Crossword



U.S. envoy tries to draw Serbs into Bosnian settlement

BELGRADE, (R) — U.S. special envoy Charles Redman opened talks with Serbian leaders Tuesday to try and draw them into an overall settlement embracing all three sides in the Bosnian war.

Mr. Redman flew into Belgrade from Vienna, where he had chaired negotiations between representatives of Bosnian Croats and Muslims to work out the specifics of a U.S.-brokered Washington agreement on a Muslim-Croat federation.

Under the terms of the deal, the two sides are to form a federation of ethnically-based cantons in Bosnia and then join them to Croatia in a loose confederation.

Neither the Washington meeting that led to the agreement nor the Vienna negotiations include Bosnia's Serb nationalists, who have the strongest military forces in Bosnia and have seized roughly 70 per cent of the country's territory.

Any viable settlement of the 23-month Bosnian war, diplomats say, must include the Serbs — and provide for them to give up parts of territory under their control.

Mr. Redman told reporters on arrival the Vienna talks were "going very well" and he hoped most of the work in working out specifics of the tentative Washington agreement would be completed by the end of the week.

He added: "As... we move towards the next steps and what needs to be done in Bosnia, the Bosnian Serbs are going to have to be part of that... important part of it."

"And we have to find now a way to find something that's

acceptable for the Bosnian government as well as something that we can negotiate successfully with the Bosnian Serbs."

Mr. Redman began talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, whose support for Serbs in Bosnia is widely seen as one of the chief reasons for the outbreak of war in April, 1992.

The U.S. envoy was also scheduled to meet Nikolai Koljevic, a senior aide of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The deployment of the Scandinavians was a first step towards reopening the airport and allowing U.N. relief organisations to deliver humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of civilians in Sarajevo and elsewhere.

In a striking demonstration that a degree of normality was returning to still-besieged Sarajevo, two trams ran through the city for first time since May 2, 1992.

Although the trams were escorted by U.N. armoured vehicles, cheering crowds saw them as a sign that the worst may be over.

On Monday, Croat and Muslim forces in Bosnia complied with a noon deadline for the withdrawal of heavy weapons from areas that have seen bitter skirmishes for almost a year.

The withdrawal was part of a ceasefire agreement that preceded the Washington Federation Accord.

In another move that underscored progress on the battlefield, preparations went ahead to open the airport of the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla for an airlift that could bring relief to hundreds of thousands of civilians.

More than 100 Scandinavian peacekeepers have taken up position at Tuzla Airport, closed since the beginning of the war, and U.N. officials said Muslim-led army units were withdrawing from the immediate area.

"We expect the soldiers of the Bosnian government to be withdrawing during the course of the afternoon," U.N. spokesman Matthew Nerzic told a news conference in Zagreb.

The deployment of the Scandinavians was a first step towards reopening the airport and allowing U.N. relief organisations to deliver humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of civilians in Sarajevo and elsewhere.

The U.N. wants to get consent from Serb forces for the opening of the airport, which has been closed since the beginning of the Bosnian war. The Serbs say they fear that the Bosnian army would use it to fly in weapons.

France-Info Radio had reported Monday night that the Defence Ministry was considering sending 800 more soldiers to help get public services in Sarajevo.

But a military spokesman said Tuesday that any extra troops sent to Sarajevo were likely to be redeployed from elsewhere in former Yugoslavia out of a total U.N. force of 28,350.

Commenting indirectly on the U.S.-brokered Muslim-Croat agreement, Mr. Juppe said there would be no durable peace unless the Serbs were brought into the negotiating process.

To underscore the problems, the Belgrade-based Tanjug said Mr. Redman has no concrete proposals to change Serb attitudes.

The news agency, which often reflects Serbian policies, said Washington was trying to isolate Bosnia's Serb community.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe Tuesday quashed reports that France was considering sending extra troops to Bosnia in response to pleas from U.N. commanders to reinforce a fragile truce.

Mr. Juppe said after talks with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic: "All French authorities consider that we cannot go beyond the effort already made. We are the biggest contributor (to U.N. peacekeeping forces). We have done our duty."

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Serbs control the hills behind the airport (AP photo)

Mandela wants U.N. to mediate

THOHOYANDOU, South Africa (R) — Nelson Mandela said Tuesday the African National Congress would insist the U.N. mediate talks to end the constitutional deadlock in South Africa.

He also said the country's first democratic election could not be delayed, as some conservative groups are demanding.

"The ANC will insist (that) only the United Nations must mediate," Mr. Mandela told a gathering of about 2,000 university students in a rally at a Thohoyandou stadium in the Venda black homeland.

Commenting on suggestions by separatist blacks and whites that the April election should be postponed, Mr. Mandela said: "If we did that, even our own members of the ANC would hang us."

The ANC leader also reiterated that a white homeland or "Volkstaat" would not be created for separatist Afrikaners in post-apartheid South Africa.

At a media briefing earlier in the day, he said he had made this clear in talks with the

pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP), one of the members of the right-wing Afrikaner People's Front.

"I have repeatedly told them as far as I am concerned the idea of an Afrikaner Volkstaat will never be on the cards (but) I am prepared to sit down and see how we can allay their fears of democracy."

Mr. Mandela was uncompromising on the election date, saying: "There is no possibility whatsoever of us shifting this date... There would be more trouble than there is taking place now. If elections do not take place... The only way of avoiding it is to ensure the elections take place."

Referring to Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope and the decision by the homeland cabinet to refer to its parliament a final decision on registering for the election, Mr. Mandela said: "It seems I'm talking to a stone. I think we've given him enough time... If he continues to be arrogant, we will have to take action against him. It's a matter of time."

Meanwhile police moved on Bophuthatswana's broadcasting headquarters Tuesday after workers seized the building and took the son of the South African black homeland's president hostage, witnesses said.

Police fired teargas to dislodge the workers, who took over the building earlier in the day in a dispute of pay and pensions amid widespread unrest in the homeland in the run-up to South Africa's first all race elections in April.

The witnesses said Homeland President Lucas Mangope's son Eddie, the broadcasting corporation's chairman, was in the building in the capital Mmabatho when heavily-armed police moved in.

They said about 700 workers, demanding a pay rise and pension payout, closed entrances to the centre in the homeland.

Mr. Mangope escaped but before the police action an angry Eddie Mangope, asked by Reuters in the building whether he was being held against his will, replied:

Doctors blame sunbed for skin cancer

NEWCASTLE (R) — British doctors blamed a sunbed for giving a middle-aged woman skin cancer in what is thought to be the first such diagnosis in Britain. The woman, in her 40s, has had only one foreign holiday in her life and has never sunbathed topless or nude. She decided to get a tan with a sunbed before going on a second sun-seeking holiday and doctors are convinced that is how the woman, who has sensitive skin, developed tumours on her breasts and buttocks. "We can be absolutely definite the sunbed has caused her skin cancer." Skin specialist Dr. Peter Farr said at Newcastle Hospital in northeast England. "If she is just a one-off we need not be too worried but I rather suspect she is just the tip of the iceberg." Medical experts have long suspected a link between skin cancer and the ultraviolet rays of tanning devices. But this is thought to be one of the first cases in Britain to be directly linked by a doctor. The woman, who was not named, contacted specialists when she developed skin irritation about a year ago. "The people most at risk are those, using sunbeds all year round and for most of the year. And those who find it difficult to tan and who tan very poorly in natural sunlight," said Dr. Farr.

French radio defies clampdown on sex talk

PARIS (R) — France's second most popular music radio channel said it would defy an official clampdown on free-wheeling live discussions of teenage sex which has infuriated young listeners and raised charges of censorship. France's radio watchdog the Higher Audio-Visual Council (CSA) has ordered Fun Radio to tone down Lovin' fun, a live evening show with 1.3 million listeners in which young people discuss issues ranging from sex to the war in ex-Yugoslavia. Fun Radio's head Benoit Sillard vowed to disobey the ruling, saying it was another attempt to restrict the freedom of radio stations following a new law ordering them to run at least 40 per cent of French songs in their rock music broadcasts. He said the CSA issued its ruling after one of the channel's rivals sent in the transcript of a frank discussion of sodomy. "This was totally unrepresentative. It was a raw 30-second extract out of 30 hours of programming, in which a girl listener talked about sodomy in explicit terms," he said. "It's censorship — the CSA told me it wants to ban young people using such language," said Mr. Sillard. He pledged his programme would continue unchanged.

U.S. military to ban smoking in workplace

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defense Department said it will ban smoking in the workplace at U.S. military facilities worldwide in a major new health initiative. The brief press advisory said the new "smoke-free workplace" will go into effect on April 8 at hundreds of military facilities by broadly expanding current restrictions on smoking at military facilities. The announcement came as Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts Monday asked for a congressional investigation into allegations that tobacco companies add nicotine to cigarettes to make them addictive.

Widow talks raiders out of stealing

LONDON (R) — An 80-year-old British widow confronted three masked raiders in her home and talked them into handing back the money and valuables they intended stealing, the Times reported Tuesday. The newspaper said Lilian Cole described the raiders as "sweeties" after she had got them to see the error of their ways. "They are wonderful for what they did and I love them," she quoted the retired teacher as saying. "At first I was terrified because they had masks over their faces and were quite big," she said. "I told them I was poor too and that I sympathised with them. "I told them I have to sit with hot water bottles at night to keep the heating bills down."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss houses ablaze as train explodes

ZURICH (R) — A train pulling petrol tankers jumped the tracks at a north Zurich railway station and exploded in a fireball Tuesday, setting nearby houses ablaze. The blast injured at least one person, police said. Radio 24, a local radio station, reported two women were hurt and taken to hospital. A police spokesman said five petrol wagons were derailed and caught fire. Apparently after a wagon axle broke as the train passed through Zurich-Affoltern Station. Heavy black smoke from the explosion cloaked the area. Police said petrol flowed into sewers, setting fire to nearby houses and blowing out sewer manhole covers. A Reuter reporter at the scene said three houses next to the railway track were burnt out. Police helicopters flew overhead, warning local residents over loudspeakers that a high risk of explosion remained and telling them not to smoke or use any form of fire. Radio 24 said scores of residents fled their homes and went into nearby woods to escape the danger.

European women ministers show solidarity

BRUSSELS (R) — Women ministers from around Europe gathered in Brussels in a show of solidarity on the eve of International Women's Day. Some 26 female ministers of justice, employment, transport and social affairs, from 16 of the Council of Europe's member states, signed a declaration of principles for equal opportunities in Europe after a day of discussion. "When I see women ministers there's always a kind of understanding between them. They can support each other and make visible the fact that they exist," Belgian Minister for Employment, Labour and Equal Opportunities Miet Smet told Reuters. Ms. Smet, who came up with the idea for the European Conference of Women Ministers, said they wanted to see improved chances for women in jobs, education and especially politics. "Women are half the population. It's a democratic deficit if you don't have that half represented in government, especially as (they) have a different past and tradition which influences their behaviour and ideas," Ms. Smet said.

Observers say Kazakh election unfair

ALMA ATA (R) — Foreign observers in Kazakhstan Tuesday branded as unfair the first multi-party parliamentary elections to be held in the giant former Soviet republic. A delegation from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), of which Kazakhstan is a member, named several points where Monday's elections had failed to meet what they called democratic standards. "The general assessment of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly was that the elections did not meet internationally accepted standards for free and fair elections," CSCE delegation head Jan Van Houwelingen told a news conference. One of the observers' main criticisms was that local election committees had been arbitrary in deciding which candidates to bar from the poll. Kazakh officials were not immediately available to respond to the comments.

Scots Conservatives hit record low

EDINBURGH (R) — Conservatives slumped to their lowest poll rating ever in Scotland as they launched a campaign Monday to break the opposition Labour Party's stranglehold on local government. Ian Lang, cabinet minister heading the government in Scotland, announced he was sending a letter showing the success of Prime Minister John Major's government to households. But just hours later a new opinion poll for the British Broadcasting Corporation gave the Conservatives only 13 per cent of the Scottish vote, the lowest ever recorded. Labour were ahead with 47 per cent and the independence-seeking Scottish National Party (SNP) second with 25. At the 1992 general election, Labour won 39 per cent of the Scottish vote, the nationally-ruled Conservatives 25.7 per cent, and the SNP 21.5. Conservative support was three per cent down on last month, the SNP two per cent up, and Labour steady.

Tapie to be quizzed in MP's murder

TOULON, France (R) — Police probing the murder of a corruption-fighting French parliamentarian questioned a senior local official Tuesday and were due to quiz Marseille soccer boss and politician Bernard Tapie later, justice sources said. Maurice Arreckx, president of the Var Department

Council, was questioned for several hours about the Feb. 25 shooting of Yann Piat, who had named him and Mr. Tapie in a letter to an aide in which she said she feared assassination. "I am very happy to testify... if that can help the course of justice. So much the better," Mr. Arreckx told reporters on entering the police station. Judge Thierry Rolland, investigating the killing, has placed two minor Toulon underworld figures under investigation for suspected murder but made clear he believes there was a wider conspiracy, possibly including politicians. Police also detained four other people with underworld links for questioning in the investigation Tuesday, the justice sources said.

Clarke is ready to succeed Major

LONDON (R) — Britain's Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke, the man most likely to succeed Prime Minister John Major, said he would like the job — but only when Mr. Major decided the time was right. With the embattled Major being hit by another wave of speculation about his leadership, Chancellor of the Exchequer Clarke said: "I would like to be a contender... but at a time of John Major's choosing." "I have a reasonable desire to keep myself a contender but I completely understand that many other people have the same idea," he told the Independent newspaper in an interview published Tuesday. The latest media speculation on who might replace Mr. Major has centred on Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine after his headline-grabbing testimony last week to Britain's arms-for-Iraq inquiry and a forceful speech on the state of the European Union. Mr. Clarke remains the leading contender in the run-up to local council elections in May and European Parliamentary elections in June. If the Conservatives are routed as polls suggest, this could increase the pressure on Mr. Major to step down. Bookmakers Tuesday made Mr. Clarke even-money favourite to replace Mr. Major, with Mr. Heseltine the second choice at 3-1.

Clinton backs U.N. force for Georgia

WASHINGTON (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze received President Bill Clinton's conditional support for U.N. peacekeepers in his homeland Monday and said he would make his case Wednesday to the U.N. Security Council. The two leaders, at a news conference after their first meeting, also expressed concern about rising nationalism in Russia. Mr. Shevardnadze said an ultranationalist takeover in Moscow would be "a great threat. Not only for Russia, but also for the whole planet at large." Mr. Clinton called "very remote" the possibility of a return to cold war with the prospect of "total destruction of two great civilisations" by nuclear war. But he said it is likely that more Russians will turn to ultranationalists including politicians. Police also detained four other people with underworld links for questioning in the investigation Tuesday, the justice sources said.

Mr. Clinton, using his harshest language so far about China, expressed "strong distaste" over Beijing's recent harassment of dissidents and said the security sweep would have a "negative effect" on his March 11-14 visit and on the U.S. review of China's favourable trade status.

China lashed out at criticism

Clinton defends wife in Whitewater case

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Monday that Whitewater is no Watergate despite Republican efforts to whip up "hysteria" and emotionally defend his wife's integrity in the political damaging case.

At a news conference, the embattled president also disclosed that he learned federal investigators were looking into possible links between him and questionable Arkansas business deals soon after the probe began last fall.

But he insisted there was nothing sinister about that alert and said he thought nothing of it at the time. And a White House official later said Mr. Clinton learned of the probe — which did not target him and Hillary Rodham Clinton — only after the White House received press inquiries about it.

Under questioning, Mr. Clinton dismissed any suggestion that the investigation into the Whitewater Arkansas land investment deal, a savings and loan failure — and any White House aides and four present and former Treasury Department officials to testify on White House involvement.

"If I did something wrong, it will come out in the special counsel (investigation)... they will find the truth," Mr. Clinton said. "Let them do it."

On Capitol Hill, Republicans continued to clamour for congressional hearings to parallel the judicial inquiry. But special prosecutor Robert Fiske said that was a bad idea.

In a letter to Senate Banking Committee Chairman Donald Riegle and the panel's senior Republican, Alfonse D'Amato, Mr. Fiske said inquiry by a congressional committee "would pose a se-

vere risk to the integrity of our investigation."

The New York lawyer said he was concerned by the possibility that congressional witnesses might be granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for their testimony and by premature public disclosure of "matters at the core of the criminal investigation."

Chairman of both the House and Senate Banking Committees assured Mr. Fiske they would do nothing to jeopardise his investigation. But Sen. D'Amato said he told Mr. Fiske his "opposition is premature and overly broad."

Sen. D'Amato said on CNN's Crossfire that he obviously would not seek immunity for witnesses that could undercut Mr. Fiske's investigation but said Republicans would meet with Mr. Fiske Wednesday on their request for Whitewater hearings.

Mr. Clinton grew visibly intense and emotional Monday when he defended the integrity of Mrs. Clinton, a partner in the Arkansas law firm that handled some Whitewater matters and who has become subject of some unflattering press speculation.

China, U.S. lash each other on rights

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States threw hard public punches at each other over human rights Tuesday, souring the atmosphere for this week's Beijing visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

International jockey challenge in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Champion riders from four continents, including champions United States, will vie for the international jockeys challenge scheduled for March 25 in Dubai.

In addition to the United States, the other continents represented are Europe, Australia, Asia in addition to the Middle East.

Each country will have two of their best riders pitted against the other teams in four races at different distances, with their horses being picked by lot.

The top jockeys will be competing for the Emirates Bank International Trophy for the team event, and for the Ken Russell Memorial Trophy in the individual contest. Ken Russell, who represented Australia in last year's event here, was recently killed in a riding accident.

Points will be awarded to all finishers, ranging from 10 points to the winner, down to 1 point for the last horse. The organizers however did not give the prize money at stake.

Mike Smith and Chris McCarron will defend the U.S. team title, in the absence of Gary Stevens who romped to the individual crown with an emphatic win in the inaugural tournament last year. Smith recently won the Eclipse Award for 1993 and was champion jockey in the United States last year, while McCarron

is a member of the Hall of Fame and his mounts have won in excess of \$163 million.

He was the youngest jockey to win \$100 million and has won more than 6,000 races. In addition to big races success at home, such as Breeders' Cup Classic win on Alysheba and Sunday Silence, he won the Japan Cup on Pay the Butler.

Last year, Gary Stevens of the United States won the individual title and along with Kent Desormeaux, also took the trophy for the top continental team performance.

Providing the additional sparkle will be two of the finest jockeys in the world, Pat Eddery and Michael Kinane who will ride under European colours.

Australia will be represented by Kevin Moses and Greg Childs, who are among the most successful riders in the country.

Japan is sticking to its combination of last year with Jokio Okabe and Yutaka Take, champion jockeys in their own right, ready to provide their rivals a real surprise.

The UAE, which is the horse racing centre of the Middle East with the ruling Maktoum family one of the world's biggest and richest owners, will be represented by Richard Hills and John Murtagh who are currently slugging it out in the local jockeys championship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Real Madrid fire coach Floro

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid Monday fired coach Benito Floro following the team's weekend defeat by first division Stragglers Lerida. Chairman Ramon Mendoza named former player and member of the technical staff Vicente Del Bosque as caretaker coach until the end of the season. The sacking of Floro, who came to Madrid from Albacete at the start of the 1992-93 season, climaxed a board meeting dedicated to discussing yet another crisis in a stormy season for Spain's most famous club. Real lost 1-0 at home to Paris Saint Germain in a European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg last Thursday and Sunday's defeat in Lerida was the final nail in Floro's coffin.

Olympic pairs champions to skip Tokyo

MOSCOW (R) — Olympic pairs skating champions Yekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov of Russia will skip this month's world championships in Tokyo because they are preparing to return to the professional circuit. "We are not going to the world championships later this month because we have only a month to prepare for our shows and we still haven't recovered from the Olympics," Gordeeva told the English-language Moscow Times newspaper. "We probably won't compete in the next Olympics," she told a special edition of the newspaper dedicated to Tuesday's women's day holiday. The couple's Lillehammer title was their second Olympic gold — they won at Calgary in 1988 and then turned professional before taking advantage of new rules to return to the games.

Ray Arcel, legendary trainer, is dead

NEW YORK (R) — Ray Arcel, who trained 22 world boxing champions in a career that spanned 65 years, died Monday of leukemia. He was 94. Arcel's first world champion was Charlie Phil Rosenberg, who won the world bantamweight championship in 1925. Among Arcel's other champions were Jack "Kid" Berg, a Briton who won the world junior welterweight title in 1930; lightweight champion Benny Leonard, who won the title in 1917; and Roberto Duran, who captured the lightweight title in 1972. Arcel also was in Larry Holmes' corner when he retained his heavyweight title against Gerry Cooney in 1982. Even after he retired from boxing, young fighters continued to seek his advice, including Olympic champion Mark Breland and up-and-coming heavyweight Shannon Briggs.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦7 ♠A984 0KQ10832 ♣92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1NT Pass
2♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A9107 ♠Q963 052 ♣K4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass
2♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
2A88 ♠K 0A109643 ♣974
Partner opens the bidding with four

hearts. What action do you take?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AKJ10976 ♠Q 088 ♣AQ10
What is your opening bid?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AK73 ♠QK673 053 ♣96
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♦ Pass
2♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦9 ♠AKJ10875 0K1076 ♣K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
2A88 ♠K 0A109643 ♣974
Partner opens the bidding with four

hearts. What action do you take?

Q.8—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A9107 ♠Q963 052 ♣K4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass
2♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.9—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
2A88 ♠K 0A109643 ♣974
Partner opens the bidding with four

Starks leads Knicks to another win

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (R) — For streaky John Starks, it was a tale of two halves. While for his New York Knicks, the first half of the fourth quarter was déjà vu all over again.

Starks missed his first 10 shots and was held to two points in the first half but scored eight of his 21 points and produced a couple of key steals during a 17-0 New York run to open the fourth quarter as the revitalized Knicks pulled away for a 99-85 victory over the Detroit Pistons Monday.

The Knicks, who had used a 15-point lead to open the fourth quarter in beating New Jersey in their previous game Thursday, have won three straight after a season-high four-game losing streak.

The Pistons (13-45) led by as many as 16 points late in the third quarter but now have dropped seven straight.

Patrick Ewing added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Anthony Mason contributed

14 points and 14 rebounds the Knicks, who swept the season series from Detroit (4-0).

In Miami, Dee Brown scored 21 points, including a go-ahead 20-foot jumper with 1:29 remaining, to lead the Boston Celtics past the Heat 112-104, snapping Miami's franchise-record seven-game winning streak.

Brown's jumper snapped a 102-102 tie to give Boston its second straight victory following a franchise-record 13-game losing streak.

Grant Long paced Miami with 24 points and Rony Seikaly added 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat, who have the best road record in the Eastern Conference but are now just 50 at home.

Sherman Douglas scored 20 points and handed out 11 assists for the Celtics, who placed six players in double figures.

The Celtics, who were playing without injured centre Robert Parish, were outrebounded 46-29 but shot a blistering 61 per cent from the floor.

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 25 points and Harvey Grant and Rod Strickland added 20 apiece as the red-hot Trail Blazers trounced the Golden State Warriors 137-108.

Portland, which won for the ninth time in its last 10 games, made 57 per cent of its shots in registering its highest point total of the season.

Chris Mullin had 20 points to lead Golden State, which played without Chris Webber, who is suffering from a hip pointer.

The Warriors, who had a three-game win streak snapped, lost to the Blazers for the 10th time in their last 11 meetings.

In Milwaukee, Tony Smith, playing on the same floor where he starred for Marquette and became the school's third all-time leading scorer, posted career highs with 25 points and 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers hammered the Bucks 106-84.

Sedale Threatt added 20 points and Nick Van Exel 16 for Los Angeles while Elden Campbell netted 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

The Lakers collected 17 steals, led by George Lynch's five, and forced the Bucks into 25 turnovers.

Todd Day paced Milwaukee, which never led, with 18 points, as the Bucks lost for the eighth time in 11 outings.

Vin Baker added 17 points and eight rebounds for Milwaukee, which placed just three players in double figures.

Faisali remains in lead as soccer championship goes into 16th week

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha play Al Yarmouk in the 91st match of the first division soccer championship as it enters its 16th week Wednesday with six weeks remaining in the most prestigious soccer competition of the country.

The Warriors, who had a three-game win streak snapped, lost to the Blazers for the 10th time in their last 11 meetings.

During the second leg of the tournament, Al Qadissieh beat Al Yarmouk 6-2. Al Ahli 3-1, Al Hussein 3-1, and drew with Sahab 1-1.

Also in the upcoming week, Al Ahli will seek to defeat Al Jazireh who fell to 9th place after an unexpected 2-1 loss to newcomers Al Fuheis who climbed from last

and moved from fifth to third place behind Al Ahli. They will next clash against 6th placed Al Qadissieh who have somewhat escaped the danger of relegation facing the last four teams.

11th placed Sahab will have to begin scoring some wins if they intend to avoid relegation. They will next face 7th placed Al Arabi, 1-0 winners over Al Yarmouk last week.

Sahab next have some tough matches against Al Ramtha, Al Ahli, Al Hussein, and Al Faisali.

Standings prior to 16th week

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Faisali	15	13	1	1	—	38	8	42
Ahli	15	7	4	—	4	22	15	29
Wihdat	15	7	3	2	3	15	11	29
Hussein	15	6	4	2	3	22	13	28
Ramtha	15	7	2	1	5	25	18	26
Qadissieh	15	5	4	2	4	22	17	25
Arabi	15	4	4	—	7	18	29	20
Baqaa	15	5	2	1	7	14	25	20
Jazireh	15	2	6	—	7	17	21	18
Fuheis	15	4	1	1	9	10	25	15
Sahab	15	2	3	2	8	14	22	14
Yarmouk	15	4	—	2	9	13	26	14

E. Germany doped children to boost performance'

BERLIN (R) — Children in former East Germany were given illegal drugs to boost their performances in sport, Berlin newspaper said Monday.

The Berliner Morgenpost quoted a German government official as saying that recently-discovered documents from the East German security police (STASI) showed that child athletes under 14 had been doped in the 1970s and 1980s. The present government was preparing charges against former East German sports authorities in at least 12 cases of causing bodily harm to minors and violating pharmaceutical laws, said Manfred Kittlaus, head of the Central Office for Government and Unification Crimes (ZERV).

"He will be examined later this week to determine whether he will need surgery to repair the meniscus in his right knee," said Romi Gal of Juventus. The meniscus is a crescent-shaped fibro-cartilage which acts as the knee's shock-absorber.

Baggio, whose career was nearly cut short when he underwent major surgery on the same knee nine years ago, injured the knee again last week when Juventus lost 1-0 to Cagliari in the UEFA Cup. A Stasi report quoted in the newspaper said: "Support in the sports medicine area (is) apparently the only possibility currently available to further increase performances. This was especially apparent at the

Many former East German trainers have admitted that doping was rife but said the abuse was ordered by higher officials.

Skating association not backing down against Harding

PORTLAND, ORE (AP) — The U.S. Figure Skating Association is showing no sign of backing down in its legal showdown with Tonya Harding.

Association officials are proceeding with plans for a hearing Thursday in Colorado Springs, Colo., on whether to throw Harding out of the sport for her alleged role in the attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

The panel continues to believe that the hearing will be held on Thursday at 9 a.m., the panel's chairman, Bill Hybl, said. "The panel is very careful

ly following the bylaws of the United States Figure Skating Association to provide due process and a fair hearing."

Harding's lawyers, however, say it would be unfair for her to face the hearing while a criminal investigation into her role in the case is unfinished.

Unless the hearing is stopped, they say, "She will undoubtedly be found 'guilty' of violating some USFSA rule and deprived of her membership registration. That will effectively end her competitive figure skating career."

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A popular political comedy

Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies role in plot to kill Sedki

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran denied Tuesday Egyptian allegations that it had plotted to kill Egypt's prime minister, Atef Sedki. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Mortez Sarmadi told Tehran's official Islamic Republic News agency that the accusations were "baseless and false." Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Monday in a Kuwaiti newspaper that Iran had paid 44,000 Egyptian pounds (\$13,100) to an Egyptian plumber to finance an attack on Dr. Sedki, but that the unidentified middleman had spent the money on himself. Mr. Mubarak told the daily Al Qabas that the plumber had been arrested. IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Sarmadi as saying the accusation not only reflected "the Cairo regime's helplessness and confusion, but also the critical situation in that country." Mr. Mubarak did not say if the alleged plot was in any way connected to a failed assassination attempt on Dr. Sedki in November. The Egyptian leader, who has blamed Iran for financing Muslim fundamentalists seeking to overthrow his government, said the money for the plot had come through Afghanistan. He gave no other details, such as when the plot was uncovered.

Clinton offers greetings on Eid Al Fitr

WASHINGTON (USA) — President Bill Clinton offered his greetings Tuesday to the world Muslim community on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, celebrating the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. This year's Eid Al Fitr, which most of the Islamic World will celebrate on March 12 or 13 (depending on the sighting of the moon), "reminds us of our shared responsibility to work for peace and for a better future for all the world's people — especially in the wake of the Hebron massacre," Mr. Clinton said. "In the United States, this is an occasion for us to reflect with pride on the achievements of Muslim Americans and to take satisfaction in the historic and constructive relations which we have had with Muslim countries around the world," the President added.

Mandela backs talks, but no Israeli visit

THOHOYANDOU (AP) — Nelson Mandela said Tuesday his African National Congress (ANC) supported peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but that he was unable to visit Israel until the talks produced a peace agreement. He told a news conference he had congratulated PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres for launching the peace talks in bid to end decades of conflict in the Middle East. The Israeli government invited Mr. Mandela to visit in 1992, he said, but the time was not right. "The condition for me going to Israel is that the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO would have been signed," Mr. Mandela said. Mr. Mandela has publicly embraced Mr. Arafat for the PLO's support for the ANC in its campaign against apartheid. Pro-Israeli groups have criticised Mr. Mandela's support of Mr. Arafat, but Mandela likens the Palestinian situation to that of South Africa's blacks and says the ANC will never turn its back on groups that supported it.

Last major U.S. unit leaves Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — The last major U.S. Army combat unit to leave Somalia boarded a ship in Mogadishu bound for home Tuesday. U.S. officers said. Some 400 soldiers of the "Triple Deuce" unit of the 10th mountain division boarded the ship Mediterranean Sky along with 100 workers from the main American hospital. The unit was deployed in Somalia after 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in a clash with residents of Mogadishu on Oct. 3. The medical workers, from the 46th combat support hospital, tended dozens of American wounded in the aftermath of that battle. President Bill Clinton ordered all U.S. troops, who first arrived in December 1992 to save Somalia from famine, out of the country by the end of March. Several other contingents, including the Italians and Germans, also leave this month.

EU urges resumption of peace talks

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) has said the Hebron massacre should not interrupt the Middle East peace process and called for measures to ensure the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories. EU foreign ministers issued a statement appealing to the United Nations Security Council to swiftly adopt a resolution encouraging the resumption of peace negotiations between all parties. The EU statement welcomed measures taken by the Israeli government to ensure Palestinians' safety, but noted that Israel was responsible for the protection of all inhabitants in the occupied territories. The minister said the parties should agree on appropriate measures for the safety of Palestinians "while tackling forthwith in a constructive spirit the problem of the (Israeli settler) colonies in general." They also backed the swift establishment of an international presence, including the EU, in the territories. Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias told a news conference all his colleagues agreed on the need to shore up the position of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying he was a vital factor in the peace process.

Schneerson hospitalised

NEW YORK (R) — Menachem Schneerson, the 91-year-old grand rabbi of the ultra-orthodox Lubavitch movement was admitted to a New York hospital early Tuesday morning in serious condition, the hospital said. "He came in at about 3:30 this morning. His condition is serious," Mary Costello, the director of public relations at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, told Reuters. "He was admitted to our neurological service. He is being evaluated by a team of neurologists," she said, adding that no diagnosis had been made. Rabbi Schneerson was brought to the hospital by ambulance from his home in Brooklyn, the world headquarters of the Lubavitch movement. Last week Rabbi Schneerson, who many of his followers believe will be revealed as the Messiah, underwent an operation to remove a cataract from one of his eyes.

Hassan II commutes 195 death sentences

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan, marking the 33rd year since his accession to the throne, has commuted the death sentences of 195 prisoners to life imprisonment, the justice ministry said Tuesday. A spokesman for the independent Morocco Human Rights Organisation (OMDH) said it appeared from their lists that all prisoners on death row had been pardoned. The spokesman said most of them were common criminals convicted of murder. They also include 11 Muslim fundamentalists convicted of smuggling in arms and plotting a terrorist campaign. The last person to be sentenced to death and executed, on Aug. 9, was Chief Police Commissioner Mohammad Mustapha Tabit convicted of multiple rape and sexual violence in sex orgies he staged in his Casablanca apartment.

Nirvana star Cobain leaves hospital

ROME (R) — Kurt Cobain, lead singer and guitarist with American "Grunge" rock band Nirvana, left hospital on Tuesday four days after he was admitted in a coma induced by alcohol and drugs. Rome's American Hospital said Mr. Cobain, 27, was in good health. He left the hospital accompanied by his wife Courtney Love but it was not clear whether the couple had remained in Rome. Mr. Cobain, an idol for millions of young fans worldwide, was rushed to the hospital on Friday after falling ill at a luxury hotel where he stayed between dates on the group's European tour. The rock star has a history of drug problems.



BRUTALITY: An Israeli soldier kicks a Palestinian in the back during clashes in Arab East Jerusalem on Tuesday

Hundreds of rockets pound Kabul; at least 18 killed

KABUL (AP) — Factions on Kabul's outskirts fired hundreds of rockets into the besieged city Tuesday in one of the most intense assaults since heavy fighting began Jan. 1.

President Burhanuddin Rabani's Defence Ministry in the city centre and civilian neighbourhoods in northwest Kabul were both targeted in a barrage that began Monday afternoon and carried on throughout the day Tuesday.

At least 18 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, according to hospital workers. But the actual toll is higher, because many of the injured are unable to reach hospitals and families often bury their dead immediately.

Also, the fierce fighting heightened fears that Kabul's worsening food shortages could soon lead to famine among the tens of thousands of residents completely dependent on dwindling food handouts.

At least 70 rockets crashed in and around the Defence Ministry complex in central Kabul, said Humayun Aiani, one of the few officials still working in the badly damaged buildings. Puffs of black smoke

rose into the air and the surrounding streets were almost completely deserted.

Mr. Rabani's forces hold the presidential palace, the Defence Ministry, the airport and other key locations in the capital.

But its rivals, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and warlord Rashid Dostum, are dug in on the city's edge and have been pounding Kabul with rockets since they launched their assault on New Year's Day.

Many residents said the latest fighting was as heavy as anything they had experienced in the past nine weeks. It appeared Mr. Hekmatyar's and General Dostum's forces were doing most of the firing Tuesday, while the president's side was content to hold its ground.

"The government is in a defensive position," said Mr. Aiani.

In addition to the rocketing, Gen. Dostum's forces launched an infantry assault on the eastern side of town, but they were repulsed by the president's troops, according to Mr. Aiani. However, rockets con-

tinued to slam into the eastern part of the city even as Mr. Aiani spoke.

Many of the rockets targeted neighbourhoods in northwest Kabul, where hundreds of thousands of residents have congregated to escape the main battle zones on the southern and eastern edges of the battered city.

In perhaps the worst single attack, several rockets landed near a mosque where food was being distributed Monday afternoon, killing six and wounding 30 in northwest Kabul.

The front lines have hardly changed since the fighting began, and soldiers on both sides are entrenched in well-fortified positions.

The vast majority of the casualties are civilians who must venture onto the streets to buy food and to collect firewood needed to survive the cold nights in a city without electricity.

At least 1,000 people have been killed and more than 12,000 wounded since the beginning of the year, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Military sources said the army also gives automatic

Training plane crashes in New Delhi, 6 killed

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A Boeing 737 on a training flight for a private airline collided with a parked Russian Aeroflot jetliner Tuesday and both planes burst into flames. Officials said six people were killed.

The Boeing disintegrated and fragments could be seen strewn for about one kilometre.

The Ilyushin lay collapsed on its belly, its nose broken and the fuselage totally charred. A wrecked car had crashed into a light tower and caught fire.

Mr. Arya said five of the dead were found on the airport tarmac.

Police and airline sources said about four people including three Russian crew were aboard the Ilyushin at the time of the crash and four on the Boeing, three of them trainees.

Aeroflot officials said their plane was being serviced after an engine problem prevented it from leaving Delhi for Moscow on Monday.

At least one of the five injured was Russian, Mr. Arya said. Airport officials said two local catering workers on the ground were also among those hurt.

The scene had not yet been fully searched and more bodies might be found, officials said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the accident or what fell from the Sahara plane before it crashed.

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Indira Gandhi International Airport near New Delhi (AFP photo)

Police find 8th body entombed

in Gloucester 'house of horror'

GLOUCESTER, England (Agencies) — Police on a

mass-murder hunt said Tues-

day they had unearthed an

eighth body in Britain's "house

of horror" — a suburban home

apparently yielding grim sec-

rets of serial killing.

Police say they may find

more corpses in the small,

Victorian terraced home, in

Gloucester, western England,

and plan to extend their search

to four other sites in the area.

Some officers said the body

toll would reach double fig-

ures, perhaps Britain's biggest

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